FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 FEBRUARY 1984

Lebanon

Saudi-Syrian Talks — After two meetings between President Hafiz al-Asad and Crown Prince ‘Abdallah, the Syrian and Saudi viewpoints were “identical” on the need to halt the fighting in Lebanon to enable the parties to work for a national dialogue. The two sides also agreed to resume joint efforts to achieve peace and national reconciliation, an official source announced in a statement broadcast by Damascus radio on 22 February. The statement came after Al-Asad held a second closed meeting with Prince ‘Abdallah in Damascus while Syrian Foreign Minister ‘Abd al-Halim Khaddam earlier received Saudi mediator Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, according to the radio. Prince Bandar said in remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo that he was “very pleased” with his talks with Khaddam and he described the Syrians as “very cooperative.” Rafiq al-Hariri, Prince Bandar’s colleague, subsequently briefed Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim by telephone and said he would return to Beirut shortly to convey the Syrian stand, Beirut radio noted.

As for President Amin al-Jumayyil’s position on the 17 May agreement, Beirut radio said he has decided “in principle” to cancel the agreement with Israel but will not officially announce this decision until Saudi mediators have completed their discussions. Foreign Minister Salim earlier denied that Al-Jumayyil had made any final decision on the agreement, stating that the president is still examining various alternatives, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Former President Camille Sham‘un urged the government to reject Syria’s latest proposals and disclosed that Lebanese Front leaders have requested a meeting with Al-Jumayyil to avoid any “ambiguities,” according to the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The latter source also asserted that Syria’s “new condition” for a solution to the current crisis is a demand to supervise the training and arming of the Lebanese Army.

IDF Activity, Military Situation — The IDF unit which moved north of the Al-Awwali River on 20-21 February subsequently returned to its base, leaving no IDF units or strongholds north of the river, Israeli sources affirmed in remarks cited by Jerusalem radio. Defense Minister Moshe Arens, in remarks broadcast by the radio, likewise stated that the IDF has no fixed positions north of the Al-Awwali. He said IDF patrols and air raids north of the river are designed solely to keep “PLO terrorists” out of the area and not to protect Al-Jumayyil’s regime. Noting that whatever happens north of the Al-Awwali “interests” Israel, he disclosed that “some understandings” had been reached with the Druze on preventing “terrorists” from reentering the area. Nevertheless, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and other ministers have “reservations” about IDF activity north of the river, even though Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has approved it, according to the radio.

In Beirut Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri announced in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio that Lebanese Army units in the western sector will be deployed in the city on 23 February to assist the Internal Security Forces in maintaining law and order. The 6th Brigade will police the airport and the access road to it, he said, and the reopening of the airport will be announced soon. Regarding the Palestinian civilians in Beirut, Birri said they need blankets more than artillery batteries, adding that “the armed presence is harmful even to the Palestinian brothers.”

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces launched the first stage of the Val-Fajr VI operations on two fronts about 100 km apart in the western and central sectors of the battlefront: on the operational axes of Chazabah, northeast of Bostan, and Chilat, northwest of Dehloran, Tehran radio announced. Iranian units captured “dozens” of kilometers of land, killing or wounding a “considerable number” of men from Iraq’s 4th Division in the process, according to a communique cited by Tehran radio. Hand-to-hand combat continues in the Chazabah gorge area, and the road to the Iraqi town ‘Ali al-Gharbi is now within range of the advancing troops, Tehran radio reported. There has been “increasing mutiny” among Iraqi units with soldiers deserting and joining Iranian forces, Tehran’s Arabic service claimed citing a source in the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio, reported that an Iranian force had been “wiped out” when it attempted to attack the northern and southern flanks of Iraq’s IV Army Corps. An Iraqi military commander at the battlefront, in a statement to INA, emphasized that “false” Iranian claims about an advance by its forces cannot conceal the numbers of Iranian dead which “litter” the battlefield.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command, in an earlier statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses, announced that the Iranian regime was preparing to launch a “large-scale military offensive” aimed at penetrating Iraqi borders and destroying or occupying Iraqi cities. According to “available” information, such an attack is “imminent,” the spokesman added. Should the attack occur, Iraq will not be satisfied with confronting the aggression by “defensive means,” nor will it confine its activities to “defensive retaliation.” Iraq will respond with activities “commensurate” with the aggressors’ “intentions” and with the damage caused to Iraqi cities, even if this means carrying out activities against targets “deep inside Iranian territory,” the spokesman warned.

President Saddam Husayn, in a message to the Iraqi Army and people broadcast by Voice of the Masses on 22 February, said that it is clear Iran means to launch what it terms a “decisive” battle against Iraq. The president expressed confidence that his forces will "crush" the enemy. The commander of the Iraqi Air Force and air defense informed the president that the Air Force is "fully prepared," its targets "clear and fixed," and its weapons ready and waiting for the order to "decisively reply" to Iranian aggression and to turn enemy territory into a "continuous hell," Voice of the Masses announced.

In another development, an Iraqi military spokesman announced the shelling of Ash-Shihabi by Iranian artillery, Baghdad radio reported. This showed that Iran "has not honored" its promises to refrain from attacking residential areas, a declaration only meant to appeal to public opinion, the spokesman said.

GCC Defense

During their recent meetings in Doha, GCC defense ministers authorized the GCC General Secretariat's military committee to devise a joint defense plan, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah disclosed at a press conference reported by WAKH. Affirming the GCC states' determination to safeguard their independence through a policy of self-reliance, Bisharah indicated that a GCC working team is currently studying the possibility of establishing a joint war industry.

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Fatah Central Committee Discussions Reported

JN191320 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Tunis — The Fatah Central Committee has completed a series of discussions in which a number of its members took part. These discussions included the developments in the Arab arena, the situation in Lebanon and its political effect on the events in the Arab region, and the reorganization of the Palestinian presence in the Lebanese arena in general and in Beirut in particular. This is in light of statements the leaders of the Lebanese nationalist movement made calling for the organized return of Palestinian resistance, granting it permission to organize in order to protect Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and allowing it freedom of propaganda and political movement in Beirut. A number of Palestinian resistance leaders from other groups have actually arrived in Beirut and are supervising the reorganization of Palestinian matters and the reactivation of the Higher Political Committee of Palestinians in Lebanon.

The Central Committee also discussed the results of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to Wahington, which ended without achieving any defined results that indicate the possiblity of moving the political situation in the region. This was due to the U.S. refusal to deal with and have a dialogue with the PLO, and its maintaining its declared precondition in this field — the recognition of the Zionist entity as a prelude to any dialogue.

The Fatah Central Committee made a decision, the most prominent result of which is the arrival in Damascus of Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and member of the Fatah Central Committee. Information from Damascus points toward their readiness to receive any Fatah delegation.

Some information indicates that Hani al-Hasan will also go to Damascus in the near future.

Al-Fahum, Al-Yamani Criticized For Attending Meeting

JN181900 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Palestinian Workers Federation has expressed its regret over the participation of [PNC chairman] Khalid al-Fahum and PFLP Political Bureau member Abu Mahir al-Yamani in the seventh extraordinary meeting of the Palestinian Workers Federation, Syrian branch, which was held on the Syrian authorities' orders. The Secretariat said that their participation may contribute toward splitting the Palestinian workers federation and harming Palestinian national unity.

In two cables sent today to Khalid al-Fahum and PFLP Secretary General George Habash, the secretary general of the federation affirmed that the above mentioned conference was contrary to the constitution and the aims of the Palestinian workers federation. It was held in the absence of the majority of the members and was illegal. The secretary general, Brother Haydar Ibrahim, pointed out that those who called for the conference were half of the members of the administrative office of the federation's branch. The institution authorized to call for this conference is the administrative committee, which comprises 16 members, and not the 5-member administrative office. He said that the regional conferences cannot be held legally unless with the supervision and agreement of the federation's General Secretariat, which was legally elected in the seventh general congress held in Tunis from 9-13 December 1983. In this conference, representatives of the PFLP took part and one of them, Comrade Fu'ad 'Abdallah, was elected assistant secretary of the federation's cultural affairs committee.

The secretary general said that Ibrahim Bal'us, who read the General Secretariat's speech at the Damascus conference was expelled by the seventh general congress. He strongly condemned all the illegal meetings and described the Syria branch meeting as a dissident meeting. He said holding such a conference and participating in them constitutes a harmful stand that threatens the federation's unity and opposes all attempts at unity, an action that is in harmony with the Syrian regime's policy.

Concluding his cables, the secretary general called on Khalid al-Fahum and the PFLP to carry out their national responsibilities by denouncing the meeting; refusing to take part in any of its sessions; defending the independent Palestinian decision-making; rejecting trusteeship, domination, and hegemony; and adhering to the PNC resolutions and legitimate leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate respresentative of our people and revolution under Brother Abu 'Ammar.

Baghdad PLO Radio Condemns Junblatt Remarks

JN161212 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1635 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, once again Walid Junblatt speaks in his name and on behalf of the Progressive Socialist Party and reaffirms that he will guarantee the security of what he calls Israel's northern border. He added this time in statements broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo last night that the cancellation of the 17 May agreement does not at all mean a threat to Israeli security. What is the justification then for cancelling the ill-omened 17 May agreement so long as this cancellation will not change the situation and will only lead to guaranteeing the enemy's northern border? In fact, the cancellation will not threaten Israeli security. Junblatt has said and pledged on more than one occasion that he will guarantee the security and stability of the enemy's northern border. In short, the cancellation will lead to another agreement or formula fulfilling those guarantees. Did George Shultz not say yesterday that those who reject the 17 May agreement must assume responsibility for presenting alternative formulas?

We ask: How can Walid Junblatt guarantee the security of the enemy's northern border? What is the political and geographical position that will enable Junblatt to achieve that? There is another question: What formula will the enemy accept in this respect? Logic tells us that any formula on the so-called security of the enemy's northern border has to be approved by all the parties concerned, including the Zionist enemey and its ally as well as the man who makes this pledge and those behind him. It is impossible, for instance, for the Zionist enemy to withdraw from the Lebanese territories occupied by its forces without condition, just on the basis of Junblatt's assurances. This is if we assume that the enemy indeed intends to withdraw and that it does not have any expansionist ambitions on southern Lebanon and does not have a stategic plan to divide Lebanon into factional states. This of course is an illogical assumption, because the facts, which are based on the measures and practices of the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon tell us the contrary; in other words, the enemy has many declared expansionist ambitions in southern Lebanon. The enemy is entrenching its occupation in one way or another and has a complete and clear plan based on a political and ideological platform, to partition Lebanon.

Therefore, any formula guaranteeing the security of the enemy's northern border assumes that the enemy would agree to it, if it is completely suitable to it. Since the enemy has achieved something through the ill-omened 17 May agreement, the alternative formula, which will not mean a threat to Israel's northern border as Junblatt said, must achieve certain advantages equal to those achieved under the 17 May agreement, and even more, especially if they are based on the hideous partition plan. In this case the formula of the buffer entity will be the best concept for the enemy to guarantee what it terms its northern border.

This is why we have always emphasized the need to cancel the ill-omened 17 May agreement on the basis of cancelling all forms of cooperation with the Zionist enemy and continuing with the national struggle against the Zionist occupation to throw the enemy out of the Lebanese territories without conditions, and also do away with all its dangers, including the dangers inherent in the hideous partition plan. The danger of the 17 May agreement does not just lie in the fact that this agreement seeks to ensure the Zionist enemy's domination of Lebanon but also in the fact that the enemy is working against Lebanon's unity, independence, sovereignty, and Arabism. Therefore, its cancellation must be based on preserving Lebanon's unity, independence, sovereignty, and Arabism. Any formula for dealing with the Zionist enemy will not achieve this national and pan-Arab goal.

Finally, perahps we understand what Junblatt means when he says that he rejects the return of what he terms armed Palestinians to Lebanon and the return to the situation that preceded the Israeli invasion. Perhaps, we understand this talk to mean that it is part of the required political tactics. But does this rejection not mean that it is some kind of reassurance since Junblatt also clearly says that he is discussing this matter with the traitor dissidents in Damascus, these people who are finished and done with and are now only minor figures in the records of Syrian intelligence?

A final question: Why make these assurances and pledges to protect Israel's northern border at a time when there are increasing Israeli threats against the Lebanese nationalist forces, including Junblatt and those who call for the cancellation of the agreement? Walid Junblatt has spoken about the security of the enemy's northern border, but what about Lebanon's security. Once again, we call upon Junblatt to thoroughly revise his calculations. He still has time before it becomes too late.

Iraqi Weekly Interviews 'Arafat on Current Situation

JN201320 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that Palestine and the Palestinian Arab people's sons are the first to be affected by the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war.

In an interview with the weekly magazine *WA'Y AL-'UMMAL*, 'Arafat indicated that the fourth Islamic summit conference, which was held in Casablanca, Morocco last month, called for the termination of the war between Iraq and Iran, but Iran did not respond to this appeal. He added that the war between Iraq and Iran preoccupied all the region's states, and wished Iran would have responded to the peace calls as Iraq had done. He described the Iraqi-Iranian war as a bleeding wound that does not want to stop.

'Arafat stressed that the Syrian regime did not stop for a moment in its attempts to dominate the PLO. He said there are matters which he does not want to reveal now because they would be tragic. He said that the Syrian regime stipulated his dismissal as a condition for stopping the fighting in Tripoli. However, he said, I came according to a Palestinian will, and not the will of the Syrian regime.

Regarding Libya's attitude during the siege of Tripoli, 'Arafat said: The Libyan Government sent its forces to Tripoli after telling them that they were going to fight against Israeli settlements. He added that the Libyan regime confiscated the Palestinian revolution funds in Libya as well as the national fund which consisted of donations made by the Palestinians working there. He said: It suffices to say that they recruit mercenaries and send them to Chad under the pretext of fighting within the ranks of the Palestinian revolution.

For the first time 'Arafat called the Fatah dissidents traitors and said: I do not give them the honor of talking about themselves because the Tripoli events revealed them and those standing behind them, and because all faces were unmasked. He described the post-Tripoli journey as much graver than the post-Beirut journey because it disclosed the U.S.-Zionist plot in which Arab sides were involved.

'Arafat warned against the dangers of what is taking place in the Lebanese arena and against the big plot to partition Lebanon. He said: I toll the bell because once the cancer of sectarianism begins to spread, remorse will be of no avail.

'Arafat described the Camp David accords as the first station in a series of setbacks which afflicted the march of the Palestinian and Arab struggle. He said that Egypt under Husni Mubarak is not As-Sadat's Egypt. As-Sadat committed the Camp David crime and decided, according to a premeditated plot, to alienate Egypt from the Arab nation. He added that the Egyptian people heroically resisted the normalization of relations. 'Arafat called on all the Arabs to approach Egypt and vice versa because Egypt's return to the nation is the return of balance. Otherwise, the situation will further deteriorate and the split will become greater. The PLO Executive Committee chairman added that the PLO was in continuous contact with Egyptian national forces and that the decision to visit Cairo was a Palestinian decision before anything else.

Regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, 'Arafat said: I did not and will not close the door of dialogue with Jordan. Moreover, I will not forget King Husayn's stand, which he announced in Paris when we were besieged in Tripoli, that he is ready to continue dialogue with us without any conditions.

PNC Official Interviewed on Palestinian Situation

GF201945 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 19 Feb 84 p 19

[Interview with Muhammad Subayh, PNC secretary, by *AL-WATAN* correspondent in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Where did the committee for assessing the "visit" by 'Arafat to Cairo end up, and why was this committee established, despite the fact that Abu 'Ammar came to Cairo upon Fatah's decision to get in contact with Egypt?

[Answer] The committee for assessing the visit does not discuss the principle of the visit and the two members of the committee Abu Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] are known for their approval of it. Its mission is to discuss the results of this visit. Fatah did not reject this visit and even the statement issued following the Fatah meetings there described the visit as an "organizational" rather than "political" violation because as you said, it was upon the movement's agreement.

[Question] What about the dialogue with Jordan and how can that which was severed in the past be restored and a new formula achieved for cooperation between the two sides?

[Answer] Dialogue with Jordan should continue through all means in order to find the best formulas to support our people in the occupied territories and Jerusalem and to consolidate the Arab stance on the international arena. This dialogue should be carried out with full Arab support and it also is a prelude to finding an Egyptian, Palestinian, and Jordanian coordination. This is needed before entering into any settlement.

Regarding the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue in the past, what happened was that certain work papers were prepared and one of these papers was written by Abu 'Ammar in his own handwriting. King Husayn asked him to sign it, but Abu 'Ammar told him to go on with the settlement operation in accordance with this paper without a signature and to "try" without the demanded authorization so that this authorization would not be lost in the event of failure. The Fatah Central Committee supported Abu 'Ammar's stance and the dialogue stopped. However, what is required is not to find one particular formula for this dialogue. It either takes place or it doesn't. There are dozens of formulas that can be agreed upon.

In the dialogue with Jordan there are the mutual issues, such as the situation in the West Bank and Jerusalem, and there is the Egyptian-Palestinian dialogue on the situation in the Gaza Strip. However, all that should lead to a Palestinian-Jordanian-Egyptian dialogue supported by an Arab stance that reflects understanding for the upcoming stage and tackles the proposed solutions on the international arena, such as amending UN Security Council Resolution 242, or tackles the Egyptian-French plan, or the Geneva statement proposed by 'Arafat, or others.

DFLP's Hawatimah Press Conference Reported

JN191846 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Comrade Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has praised Brother Abu 'Ammar's stand toward the program of unity and reform that has been proposed by the PFLP-DFLP joint command. At a press conference in Bucharest yesterday morning at the conclusion of his talks with senior Romanian officials, Hawatimah stressed that the traitor dissidents and their allies attempted to force the revolution and the sons of our people to adopt a policy that our people have not decided through their legitimate institutions.

Hawatimah said: When the traitor dissidents asked us to say no to the PNC resolutions, the Arab summits' resolutions, an enlarged international conference, and the Prague declaration, we loudly said no. Comrade Hawatimah touched on the PNC's expected session, saying: We call for the promotion of the dialogue that exists among the PLO's major forces to reach a political understanding that would guarantee the success of the PNC session and an agreement on the independence of national decisionmaking. He stressed that our struggler people reject all forms of trustreship and containment, and all attempts that seek to place the PLO under the control of this or that Arab capital.

Comrade Hawatimah spoke about his talks with the Romanian Communist Party officials. He said that these talks dealt with the Middle East situation and the Palestinian question. He added: We agreed that there can be no political solution without the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and that the practical formula to settle the Middle East crisis can be achieved through an enlarged international conference to be attended by the USSR, the United States, and representatives of the nonaligned and European states so that the Middle East crisis will not remain only in the Americans' hands.

Importance of Jordanian-Palestinian Talks Viewed

JN180928 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1625 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Brothers, the date for the Palestinian-Jordanian talks is drawing near. Our Palestinian masses everywhere await the results of these talks. Our people hope these talks will be a positive and fruitful step on the road toward unifying Arab efforts for benefiting the Palestinian and other Arab causes. The forthcoming Palestinian-Jordanian talks are of such importance that they are certainly worth waiting for. Their importance in such a phase stems from the fact that these talks are a serious step toward joint action based on mutual respect for points of view reached through a clear political program that seeks to explore common stands and strengthen these stands on the basis of the program.

The program in this context is the Arab peace plan on the one side, and the PNC resolutions on the other. In addition, these talks gain importance from stressing the dynamism of Palestinian political action and its continued effort to find the greatest number of possible options that lead in their entirety toward serving the Palestinian national cause on the road of achieving its historical victory that will be expressed by the achievement of the inalienable national rights of our people, foremost of which are the right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the vanguard of its courageous struggles.

The Palestinian-Jordanian talks also gain great importance from the fact that if they succeed — and this is very possible — a model for fruitful cooperative relations on the Arab level would be established. This could attract other Arab efforts around it. The success of the talks and their result in the achievement of a joint plan of action will mean the deep respect for independent points of view and roles in the framework of relations of cooperation that will lead to more than cooperation toward a federal union with Jordan after the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, as stated in the PNC resolutions.

The deep respect for the independent Palestinian role, and consequently independent Palestinian decisionmaking, points toward complete understanding of the importance and effect of this decision and role in the political conflict, especially since many events have proven the impossibility of writing off the independent Palestinian role and containing Palestinian decisionmaking which is the result of great sacrifices by our people through their liberation struggle so that the struggle continues to march toward victory.

It only remains to say that we are awaiting the beginning of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks with great hopes that they will achieve all the results that are talked about by our Palestinian masses everywhere. Our masses continue their struggle to further their basic options through all forms of struggle and they go forward under the banner of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative and vanguard leader on the road of revolution toward the free independent state of Palestine.

Baghdad PLO Radio Comments on Mubarak Statements

JN161310 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The statements President Mubarak made on the White House lawn in which he stressed that there is no solution to the Palestine question without the national rights of the Palestinian people as expressed by the PLO were described in the Zionist entity as a deviation from the Camp David agreements. Of course they were also not welcomed by U.S. official circles which were quick to dissociate themselves from these statements and declare their opposition to them.

It is understandable for the Israelis to be outraged by these statements. We can also find explanations and reasons for this outrage. But what is surprising is the U.S. insistence on maintaining its stand of complete enmity to the Palestinian people, their rights, and leadership, especially since the foreign policy of the Reagan administration has proved to be a miserable failure in the Middle East and the U.S.-Zionist aggression that was directed primarily against the PLO in the Lebanese arena has also failed and there are no more arrows in the U.S. quiver. It can even be said that it is about to declare its bankruptcy.

Since the failure of U.S. Middle East policy is primarily due to undertaking plans of action that are subject to Israeli blackmail and that result in the escalation of enmity to the people of the region, including the Palestinian people, we cannot find an explanation for the U.S. President's stand except that it means more failure, haughty ignorance of the facts, and pushing for more escalation, thus placing the whole region on top of a volcano.

While condemning the U.S. President's stand which is furthering enmity toward the Palestinian people, their rights, and the PLO, we record for President Mubarak his positive position in opening a new scope for optimism over the return of Arab Egypt to undertake its positive role for the benefit of the Palestinian and Arab causes. This is what the PLO hoped for in its studied policy toward Egypt, a policy that had the primary objective of bringing Egypt back to assume its Arab role far from the hated chains of As-Sadat and the pressures of Israel and the United States.

Israeli Military Patrol Attacked Near Gaza 19 Feb

JN201828 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Our fighters' daring operations inside the occupied homeland are continuing against the occupation forces, regardless of the Israeli authorities' various security and terrorist measures and precautions. In occupied Gaza, an explosive charge went off yesterday morning under an Israeli military patrol. Reports from the occupied homeland said that the Israeli occupation authorities immediately besieged the area of the incident and carried out an indiscriminate arrest campaign against the Palestinian citizens under the pretext of their being responsible for the operation. This explosion is part of our revolutionaries' escalated operations against the occupation.

Israeli Major Reportedly Wounded Near Tyre

JN201838 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The heroic operations of the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men against the Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon are continuing. A group of resistance forces attacked the assistant Zionist military governor of the Tyre area, Major John Jad'ut, when he was passing in his car north of Tyre. The attack, which was carried out with machineguns, seriously wounded the Zionist major and a number of the Zionist soldiers who were accompanying him. Reports from southern Lebanon said that the Zionist major and the wounded soldiers were moved by helicopters to the military hospital in Tel Hashmomer in occupied Palestine.

On the same level and as a result of the escalated resistance operations, reports from southern Lebanon said that the Zionist invasion forces began to set up three field hospitals in various parts of southern Lebanon 2 days ago in order to render quick and urgent medical treatment to the Zionist officers and soldiers who are wounded by the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance operations.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Conference Ends; Bisharah Makes Statement

GF211554 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1335 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Doha, 21 Feb (WAKH) — The GCC defense ministers concluded their meetings here this afternoon. The defense ministers' meeting, which was attended by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, began yesterday under the chairmanship of Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister.

Following the conclusion of the meetings, Mr 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, GCC secretary general, held a press conference in which he spoke about the issues that were discussed by the defense ministers. He said that the ministers held three long working sessions. During the first two sessions they discussed the recommendations submitted to them by the chiefs of staff with regard to the defense activity and cooperation among the various committees during a 1-year period.

He added that during the first two sessions the defense ministers received two video and audio briefings from the heads of the various committees. He pointed out that during their closed session this morning the defense ministers discussed the general features of the joint defense cooperation, and said that the discussion focused on the security situation in the region and on the necessity of bolstering and consolidating cooperation among the GCC states.

As for the GCC states' strategy of joint defense, Mr 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah said that the defense ministers issued directives for the GCC General Secretariat's military committee to study this strategy and devise a plan. He indicated that the defense ministers stressed the necessity of concentrating on training, building national values, and on self-reliance. He added that a number of decisions and recommendations adopted by the defense ministers have acquired a constitutional form prior to their submission to the next GCC summit conference, while a number of other decisions will find their way to implementation. Mr Bisharah affirmed the GCC states' determination to safeguard their independence and soil by pursuing the policy of self-reliance.

On the question whether the defense ministers have discussed the issue of arms, he said that they discussed this topic with the understanding that diversifying the sources of arms is up to the GCC states. He also indicated the existence of a working team that is currently collecting information from the GCC member-states in order to determine each country's experience and desire to establish a joint war industry.

Further on GCC Meetings

LD211123 Kuwait KUNA in English 1048 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Doha, Feb 21 (KUNA) — The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) defence ministers resumed here Tuesday the third round of talks in their third conference which opened Monday.

During today's meeting, which grouped heads of delegations (defence ministers), the conferees discussed a number of issues on the agenda and the means of enhancing military and security cooperation among the GCC member-states.

During Monday's meeting, the six defence ministers agreed on a number of recommendations on strengthening military cooperation and deepening defence relations among their countries.

Meanwhile, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah stated here Monday "the recommendations were mere interpretation of the GCC Supreme Council resolutions which were adopted at the conferences held earlier in Bahrain and Qatar." Bishara has also pointed out that these recommendations were presented to the GCC defence ministers by their chiefs of staff, who met here last week.

The GCC was established in May, 1981 following intensive efforts and consultations between the six member-states of Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and the Saudi Kingdom.

KUWAIT

Foreign Ministry Envoy Returns From Iran Visit

LD201935 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1902 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait 20 Feb (KUNA) — The director of the office of the deputy premier, foreign minister and minister of information, Ambassador Sulayman Majid Ash-Shahin, returned to Kuwait this evening from Tehran at the end of a 2-day visit.

During the visit, Ash-Shahin conveyed a reply message from Shaykh Sabah as-Sabah to the foreign minister of Iran, Ali Akbar Velayati, in reply to a message which Velayati had sent to him on the 11th of this month.

Tehran radio said that Velayati has explained to Sulayman Iran's policy, "which is based on good neighbourliness with the neighboring states, particularly the Islamic states." It added that the Iranian foreign minister also acquainted the Kuwaiti envoy with the Iranian stances towards the Iraq-Iran war.

AS-SIYASAH Interviews Interior Minister Nawwaf

GF181742 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 18 (WAKH) — Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad affirmed that the Interior Ministry is taking strict measures regarding the presence of foreign labor in the country following the explosion incidents of last December.

In an interview with the daily *AS-SIYASAH* Saturday, Shaykh Nawwaf added that the incidents have also caused more importance to be attached to implementing firmly the law on expatriates living in Kuwait. He went on to say that at the present time the ministry is carrying out a painstaking survey on the legality of the foreign laborers' presence here and the abidance of the legal guardians to the law. The minister denied a reported halt of the visiting visas and joining the family applications, but said the ministry is applying stricter measures to suit the present situation.

On the issue of Gulf security, Shaykh Nawwaf said that the cooperation and coordination is maintained among the six Gulf Cooperation Council states in all the various fields, including that of security. He added that continuous coordination and consultation on the region's security is held.

The Kuwaiti minister commented on the proposal for unified passports for GCC citizens by saying the GCC interior ministers' third meeting held recently in Riyadh has made such a decision and it will be carried out as soon as the necessary practical steps are undertaken in this regard.

Women Use Constitution in Seeking Voting Rights

GF211126 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Representatives of Kuwaiti women's associations are preparing to fight a legal battle against the government in an attempt to win votes for women. And they are to use the country's constitution as the basis of their case for voting rights.

The campaign for votes is already actively underway. Three leading members of the women's movement tried to get their names included on the electoral roll, but faced total rejection from officials at the election registration office. Now they are planning an emergency meeting to decide their next move.

The chairman of the women's cultural society, Lu'lu'a al-Katami; the headmistress of the At-Tabari kindergarten, 'Adila as-Sayir; and the head of postgraduate studies at the university, Sabikah al-'Abad ar-Razzaq made the initial moves in the campaign. They went to the registration offices in Al-Dahiyah and Al-Adailiyah to have their names included on the electoral roll. They proposed to register using three articles of the constitution to back up their case.

Article 6 stipulates that Kuwait is a democracy under which sovereignty rests with the people. The women argued that denying women the vote was a violation of this democracy. They also quoted Article 7, which stressed the principle of the equality of all citizens; and Article 29 which says that all people are equal in human dignity, public rights and duty under the law. It also says that there is no discrimination on the grounds of sex, origin, language or religion.

But officials at the registration office refused to accept their applications, using Article 1 of the constitution which grants voting rights to men only. After their rejection, the women tried to report the "constitutional offences" to the police, but again they were rejected when officers said they had no orders to handle the matter.

The votes for women campaign has surfaced again after a lapse of several years. Some years ago a group of Kuwaiti women marched into the National Assembly and attended a meeting which was scheduled to discuss voting rights for women. But the move was vetoed by a majority of deputies.

PDRY

YSP Chairman Receives Soviet Envoy, Message

GF211956 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers received a message from the Soviet leaders this evening during a meeting with the USSR ambassador in Aden, Vladislav Pelrovich, in the presence of Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the YSP Central Committee and foreign affairs minister.

During this meeting, a number of issues of mutual interest were also discussed.

Yemeni Supreme Council Issues Joint Statement

GF180556 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text of 17 February joint statement issued simultaneously in Aden and San'a' at the conclusion of the second session of the Yemeni Supreme Council held under the chairmanship of the PDRY's 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and the YAR's Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih — read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
The following is the joint statement issued at the conclusion of the second session of the Yemeni Supreme Council which was held in Aden during the period of 15-17 February 1984:

In the light of efforts undertaken by the leadership of the two parts of the homeland in order to restore the unity of the Yemeni homeland, the Yemeni Supreme Council held its second session in Aden during the period of 15-17 February 1984 under the chairmenship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, the chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the secretary general of the General People's Congress.

The meetings of the council's session were held in an atmosphere of brotherly cordiality and with a feeling of historical and national responsibility toward the most important issues of our Yemeni people, foremost of which are the issues of Yemeni unity — the unity of the land and the people — the preservation of the independence of the Yemeni homeland, the reinforcing of this unity, and attaining prosperity.

The two leaders reviewed the report presented to them by the Secretariat of the Supreme Yemeni Council. The report included what has so far been achieved since the convening of the first session of the council with regard to all areas of coordination and cooperation between the two parts, either through the joint committees or through direct cooperation between institutions, ministries, and other central bodies in the two parts. The Yemeni council endorsed the recommendations that were made by the secretariat in its report. It also asked that efforts continue in the unity process.

They also reviewed the current Arab situation in light of the latest developments that are being witnessed in the Arab arena and the international situation, particularly when it concerns the two parts of the homeland.

The two leaders expressed great interest in what has so far been attained with regard to the implementation of the unity agreement, particularly what was agreed upon in the first session of the Yemeni Supreme Council. In this regard, they expressed their satisfaction with the practical steps that were undertaken to facilitate travel by citizens between the two parts of the homeland by using identity cards. The two leaders, in this respect, urged the concerned sides to provide greater momentum to this process by providing more facilities to enhance travel by citizens between the two parts of the homeland in a systematic way.

The two leaders also expressed their satisfaction with the steps that are being undertaken in the field of developing the activity of joint companies and the results of this activity, since these results will positively affect the economic development of the two parts of the homeland. In this regard, the two leaders urged all the concerned sides to work in the direction of cooperation and coordination to improve the economic life of the two parts, and to ensure the integration and development of economic plans in the two parts of the homeland.

The two leaders also noted the importance of having comprehensive coordination in the field of scientific and technical research and studies, in addition to the search for minerals and natural resources in the two parts of the homeland.

While reviewing the areas of coordination with regard to foreign policy, the two leaders expressed their satisfaction with this coordination between the two parts. The two leaders also reviewed the Arab situation and reasserted what they have called for on previous occasions; that is, the restoration of Arab solidarity. This solidarity is needed to counter Zionism and imperialism. The need for Arab solidarity has become more urgent and necessary, since it will determine the fate of the Arab nation which is suffering from disintegration, and this disintegration is no less grave than the challenges and the plots concocted by its enemies.

Uniting efforts, utilizing the resources and powers that are possessed by the Arab nation in serving it, rising up to the level of the responsibility shouldered by the Arab nation's leaders and adhering to pacts and threats within the framework of the Arab League and the Arab summit resolutions to confront the enemies constitute the only way to end the state of disunity and collapse the Arab nation is living through. This enables it to confront all the conspiracies plotted against the Arab and Islamic nations.

Concerning the Palestinian question, the two leaders stressed the importance of the integrity of Palestinian action under the leadership of the PLO — the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people — at this stage that the struggle of the Palestinian people is passing through. The two leaders affirmed, in this regard, the importance of respecting the independence and integrity of Palestinian decision-making, which expresses the aspirations of the Palestinian people through the PNC. The leaders made their appeal to all factions to discard differences and preserve the unity of Palestinian action.

They also stressed the continuation of Yemen's principled and fixed stand in support of the Palestinian people's struggle in the cause of regaining all their rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state of Palestinian soil under the leadership of the PLO.

The two leaders expressed their absolute support for fraternal Syria in its steadfastness before the Zionist and imperialist hostile plans. Upon their review of the events in Lebanon, both leaders reaffirmed the importance of Lebanese national integrity, considering it to be the basis for preserving Lebanon's edifice, sovereignty, and Arabism. They also expressed their denunciation of the continuing U.S.-backed Zionist occupation of the Lebanese territories and called for the unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist forces from Lebanon in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. Both leaders hailed the Lebanese people's resistance against the Israeli occupation and denounced the U.S. military shelling of Lebanon.

Discussing the Iraq-Iran war, the two leaders expressed their deep regret for the continuation of this war and stressed the necessity of putting an end to it and settling differences between the two countries through peaceful means. The two leaders stressed the importance of maintaining the region of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean as a region of peace and security that is free from foreign military bases.

Regarding the situation in the Horn of Africa, both leaders stressed the necessity of preserving security and stability in the region and of settling any disagreements in it through peaceful means. The leaders expressed their continuing adherence to the policy of nonalignment and their support for all the efforts made to reinforce the nonalignment movement and expand its role in all international fields, particularly in the spheres of preserving international peace, easing the tension in international relations in this period, and establishing a just and fair international economic and information system that would protect the rights of nations to utilize their resources and benefit from their wealth, and that would guarantee them a free and reciprocal exchange of information in consolidation of the concept of peaceful cooperation and coexistence and in a manner that would guarantee mutual respect.

The two leaders expressed their profound satisfaction with the accomplishments achieved during this session along the path of reuniting the two parts of the homeland and stressed their determination to continue their efforts to enhance reuniting the Yemeni homeland, which is the hope of our great Yemeni people as well as their aspiration. The two leaders expressed their gratitude to the ministerial committee and to the council's secretariat for the efforts they have made since the first session of the council with regard to following up the various aspects of cooperation and coordination between both parts. They also urged them to continue improving their activities to serve the goals for which the Supreme Yemeni Council was established.

The two leaders agreed that the Supreme Yemeni Council will hold its third session in San'a'.

Ethiopian Trade Minister Departs After Visit
GF181610 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Ethiopian External Trade Minister Wollie Chekol, and the delegation accompanying him, left Aden today at the end of a working visit to the PDRY.

During the visit, the Ethiopian external trade minister chaired the Ethiopian side in the meetings of the fourth session of the PDRY-Ethiopian joint committee. A protocol on trade between the PDRY and Ethiopia was also signed.

SAUDI ARABIA

Turkish President Evren Arrives for Visit
LD211346 Riyadh SPA in English 1236 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 21, SPA — Turkish President Kenan Evren arrived here today at the head of a high-level delegation on a four-day official visit to Saudi Arabia. He was greeted by His Majesty King Fahd and other high-ranking officials.

Fahd Fetes Turkish President
LD212117 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz gave a banquet in honor of Turkish President Kenan Evren and the delegation accompanying him.

The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy premier, minister of defense and aviation; His Royal Highness Prince Mit'ib ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of public works and housing; His Royal Highness Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; His Royal Highness Prince Badr ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of the interior; His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Riyadh district; and by a number of princes. ministers, and senior civilian and military responsible officials.

His majesty the king decorated the Turkish president with the Order of King 'Abd al-'Aziz, and they exchanged gifts.

Envoy to UK Views Crown Prince's Upcoming Trip
LD202107 Riyadh SPA in English 1920 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] London, Feb 20 — (SPA) — Crown Prince 'Abdallah's scheduled visit to Britain on Wednesday will be significant and help a great deal in strengthening Anglo-Saudi relations in all fields, a senior Saudi official has said.

In a statement to SPA, Saudi Ambassador to Britain and Ireland Nasir al-Manqur said the two countries were attaching great hopes to the outcome of Crown Prince 'Abdallah's two-day visit to London. The trip will provide a good chance to discuss questions of mutual concern regarding the Palestine cause, the Lebanese crisis, the 40-month-old Iran-Iraq war, as well as bilateral relations and cooperation, Al-Manqur said. The Palestinian cause is the major concern of Saudi Arabia, since it is a fair and just issue, he added.

Al-Manqur said the Kingdom's arms purchases are commercial issues which had nothing to do with politics. He added that Saudi Arabia is free to buy its arms requirements from any source with no restrictions whatsoever, and that any conditions for such sales are unacceptable to the Kingdom. He expressed satisfaction with the ever-increasing volume of Anglo-Saudi trade exchanges in addition to the promoting of cultural and scientific cooperation.

"Such development is attributed to strenuous efforts being made by the Saudi-British joint commission," he said. He praised Britain's stand on the Middle East issue since it is part and parcel of the European one based on the Venice declaration for finding a just and durable solution to the Palestinian cause.

Prince Sultan, Qatari Defense Minister Confer
LD192056 Riyadh SPA in English 1918 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Doha, Feb 19, SPA — The visiting Saudi second deputy and defence and aviation minister, Prince Sultan, met here tonight with Qatari heir apparent Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah al-Thani, who is also the defence minister.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and discussed matters relating to Gulf countries' cooperation. Prince Sultan arrived here earlier today to take part in the third meeting of defence ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE and Oman.

'Arafat Contacts With U.S. Envoy Denied
LD191722 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1643 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Feb (SPA) — A responsible source has stressed that there is no truth whatsoever to a report by the American *NEW YORK TIMES* that the Kingdom had been informed of contacts that, the paper says, took place between Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat and an American envoy, aimed at persuading the PLO to accept a mutual recognition with Israel.

UAE

AL-BAYAN Calls for Forces To Leave Lebanon

GF191026 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0617 GMT 19 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 19 Feb (WAM) — In its editorial, the newspaper *AL-BAYAN* dealt with the Lebanese crisis from the angle of the U.S. failure there, and said that there is no better proof of the failure of U.S. policy in handling the Middle East issue in general, and the Lebanese crisis in particular, than President Reagan's decision to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, despite his decision — which was approved by Congress — to let those forces stay until after the end of the U.S. elections in November. The newspaper said that the failure of U.S. policy in Lebanon was not limited to Washington alone, but the Israeli invasion was another one to look for means to withdraw south of the Al-Awwali River. The responsible voices demanding the unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon are stronger than the weak voices which were demanding it to stay.

AL-BAYAN said that the European countries which had hoped to achieve gains from their participation in the Multinational Force quickly seized the opportunity to turn their backs. The French forces — which are the only ones to remain — have urged a speedy decision by the UN Security Council to send international forces so that they can excuse their withdrawal under this guise, in order to safeguard their special relations with a certain sect in Lebanon.

At the conclusion of its editorial, *AL-BAYAN* affirmed the importance of the withdrawal of the Marines and the rest of the Multinational Forces and the cancellation of the 17 May agreement, which is regarded as baseless because it took place between two incapable sides in light of the invasion and occupation. Afterwards, an atmosphere can be prepared to resume the national dialogue conference which can lay down the form through which Lebanon can equally belong to its people and return to normalcy and its Arab image and enjoy security and stability — recording a page in the history of the resistance against the hostile forces and affirming that there is no way to confront the invaders but with armed resistance.

AL-KHALIJ Answers U.S. Embassy Letter

GF201313 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 20 Feb 84 p 3

[Article entitled: "A Provocative Letter From the U.S. Embassy. The Letter Is Totally Rejected. No Dialogue With U.S. Diplomats. We Reject Interference in *AL-KHALIJ* Affairs. Our Stand on U.S. Policy Will Not Change." — Copies of the U.S. Embassy's letter in English and its translation into Arabic published on same page; letter is dated 11 February]

[Text] A few days ago we received in the mail a letter from the U.S. Embassy protesting a number of articles by one of the *AL-KHALIJ* editors, Ahmad al-Jammal. The letter was written in an intelligent and dangerous manner; intelligent because of the approach it chose to enter into a dialogue with *AL-KHALIJ*, and dangerous because it is interference by the embassy of a foreign government in two matters.

The first is a matter that concerns *AL-KHALIJ*, which is legally and morally responsible, in the person of its editor-in-chief and its proprietors, for everything that is published in it. The second is a matter that concerns the UAE, for the letter looks to "a press that reflects the interests of the citizens of this country as well as its government."

We reflected a great deal on the letter of the U.S. Embassy, a copy of which was sent to the Ministry of Information by the embassy. We decided not to answer the letter in the same manner — that is, with a similar letter — because this will mean a dialogue with the U.S. Embassy. We believe that the initiation of such a dialogue is one of the letter's objectives.

It is necessary to respond to the letter in the proper manner — that is publicly. Such a method is more effective in communication and its strength lies in its openness. The letter "objects to" articles published in *AL-KHALIJ*, so why not publish the letter and the reply so that everyone — officials and readers — will know the circumstances of this serious move, and so that the U.S. Embassy will clearly understand that we reject its letters and reject any dialogue with it, and that we publish a newspaper to say openly what we believe.

We totally reject the contents of the letter which, in discussing the well-known stands of *AL-KHALIJ*, has taken a contemptible approach. Indeed, it has taken the approach of an "intelligence service" [istikhbariyan] which apparently aimed to incite hostility toward one of the *AL-KHALIJ* editors by attacking his writings and attempting to point to differences between him and the paper's political line. The writings of the said colleague are one of the expressions of the paper's political line that appear in more than one place in this paper, and in prominent places. The editorial clearly expresses the paper's views and stands on various events and naturally on U.S. policy.

The mentality of the person who wrote this letter and who addressed a copy of it to the Information Ministry is the mentality of an intelligence service and not the mentality of a responsible information and culture employee at the U.S. Embassy. This is because the letter is directed at a secondary corner in *AL-KHALIJ*, the corner of our colleague Ahmad al-Jammal, in the belief that it is a weak target that cannot be defended easily because our colleague is an Arab from Egypt and not from the UAE. This is clear in the "intelligence service" letter which referred to "several articles written by the Egyptian journalist Ahmad al-Jammal," and which said in another part that the embassy looks to a UAE press that "reflects the interests of the citizens of this country as well as its government, (?and in our view Ahmad al-Jammal has not done this.")

The letter not only reflects the mentality of the "intelligence service" that wrote it but also provides a vivid example of the view of U.S. politicians and the U.S. policy of the Arab homeland: They view it as pieces of mosaic, with every piece having its own worries, national security, and interests. It is the mentality that brought about the Camp David accords, concluded the 17 May agreement between Israel and Lebanon — and God knows what other calamities it is preparing for the Arab nation. Therefore, it is not strange for the U.S. mentality to differentiate between a citizen of the UAE and a citizen of Egypt, or between an Iraqi and a Moroccan, or between a Palestinian and a Yemeni. This is its own affair and one of the pillars of its strategy.

We at *AL-KHALIJ* are Arabs belonging to the same nation and express the same conscience and sentiments and have the same hopes. We are bound by ties, the likes of which the peoples of the United States, who are descendents of various ethnic groups, do not dream of.

We want the embassy of "our enemy's strategic ally" to know that we can read and analyze very well and understand what's between the lines, and that we place matters in the proper perspective. Therefore, we view the U.S. Embassy letter as an implicit threat to *AL-KHALIJ* as an institution, its proprietors and editorial staff. We view it as a flagrant interference in the paper's affairs with the aim of destroying and intimidating. However, we fear no one but God, and our only criterion in our work and stands is the interests of our people and nation, and the interests of our little homeland and of our greater homeland. Hence we do not fear threats, and we will not change our stand on U.S. policy, the policy of organized terrorism that is being practiced by a superpower against the majority of the peoples of the world and against the Arab nation from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf.

We reject threats and we reject advice and counseling, be it implicit or explicit, when they come from the United States. This includes the remark with which the letter began: "We believe that responsible reporting and discussion will in the end defeat irresponsibility and rancorous [letter in English says "venomous"] journalism." We wish the embassy had defined in its letters responsible reporting and irresponsible and rancorous journalism. We wish the letter spelled out the target of "responsible reporting." Is it the United States?

We are not a U.S. paper, nor do we have secret accounts in Swiss banks where the checks of the U.S. intelligence service are credited, nor do we intend to open such accounts. We are not even prepared to enter into a dialogue with the strategic ally of our nation's enemy.

Why doesn't the embassy recall the "responsible reporting" of the U.S. media — media reports that compete with each other in distorting the image of the Arabs, inciting U.S. public opinion against them, and giving favorable publicity to Zionism and Israel and supporting them by all means? Who is the target of the "responsible reporting" of U.S. media?

Yes indeed, responsible reporting will defeat rancorous journalism. It is because our press reports, commentaries, and stands are responsible toward the interests of our people and nation, our rights, future, and national security that our reporting will defeat the U.S. rancor toward the Arab nation. It is our duty as a paper to defeat such rancor daily on the pages of *AL-KHALIJ*.

The signatory to the U.S. Embassy letter certainly knows that rancor does not mean a frowning face or an unfriendly look. The U.S. rancor toward the Arab nation and homeland is taking various forms: plunder, exploitation, an alliance with our enemy Israel, support for the forces of backwardness such as the Phalangists, cultural invasion, resistance to the trends toward progress, intellectual and media intimidation, and finally a direct attack by the Marines against our Arab people in Lebanon.

The file of U.S. rancor and organized terrorism against the Arabs is being opened and not closed. In their long history of relations with the United States, the Arabs have paid a high price at the expense of their lives, funds, territory, development, and future. The history of relations with the United States is written with Phantom planes and their missiles and salvos. Politically, it is written in the exercise of vetos at the UN Security Council, and culturally it is written in the withdrawal from UNESCO for the sake of our enemy, Israel.

The embassy of "the empire of organized international terrorism" wants us to discuss U.S. policy "in a reasoned and balanced manner." Is there a more insolent request?

We received the letter which speaks of rancor and terrorism on the same day the warships of tyranny and death were wiping entire Lebanese villages out of existence; on the same day U.S. President Ronald Reagan was standing with two Arab leaders in front of the White House reaffirming his refusal to recognize the rights of the Palestinian Arab people; and on the same day the United States was declaring its rejection of the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement — an agreement that has brought endless catastrophes to Lebanon and the Lebanese people.

At the time this reply was being written, "nonterrorist and nonrancorous Washington" was announcing that it is granting the enemy of the Arabs — who pose the greatest threat to their existence and to their interests — $250 million to develop the Lavi warplane for use in the next decade, in order to guarantee our enemy's military superiority over us and to persist in the policy of fragmenting the Arab world and humiliating it.

All this happened in the course of one week, and the U.S. Embassy wants us to discuss its policy in a balanced and reasoned manner? Can there be greater impudence?

It is necessary to pause at another scandalous matter in the letter of the embassy from the "nonterrorist and nonrancorous" country. The letter says: "My government welcomes discussion and analysis of its motives and intentions, and looks to the UAE press for fair, reasoned and balanced criticism that reflects the interests of the citizens of this country as well as its government. "In our view, Ahmad al-Jammal does not do this. His views would be silly if we did not live in an age of terrorism. These days they appear to be a call for violence."

Thus, the U.S. Embassy has very simply given itself the right to determine the nature of the interests of the citizens and government of this country. How has the embassy given itself such a right, and what has it got to do with the interests of this country? Is it representing the interests of the United States or the interests of this country? The purpose of the letter is strange, but it is the mentality of U.S. policy — the policy of arrogance and hegemony that views the world as a little village whose only task in life is to serve the United States.

Such logic is rejected, and such a mentality will be defeated wherever it applies itself. It is this mentality which used the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to kill thousands of innocent Japanese. It is the same mentality that brought about the death of more than 50,000 Americans in Vietnam. It is the mentality that made the men of the U.S. garrison in Saigon flee like rats when the Vietcong closed in on them. It is the mentality which makes the Marines flee in fear from Beirut to the sea.

The UAE press, including *AL-KHALIJ*, are well aware of the interests of their citizens and government, and do not need a foreign government to point out these interests to it — let alone when such a foreign government is the government of our enemy's strategic ally.

It is not in order to emphasize but in order to remind the U.S. Embassy that we say to it that the interests of the United Arab Emirates — we repeat, Arab — are identical to the interests of the Arab nation to which our people belong as a result of the ties of history, religion, language, heritage, and a common destiny.

Perhaps the U.S. Embassy has forgotten, or pretended that it has forgotten, that it was the initiative of this small country in cutting off oil to Israel's allies in 1973 which led to the use of Arab oil in the battle of destiny for the first time in our contemporary history. In the short time since its establishment, this country has contributed to the battles of the Arab nation and to the requisites for Arab steadfastness, in relation to its area and population, what no other country has contributed. The people of this small country have been living the causes of the Arab nation since the middle 1930's, following the nation's worries and doing what they can, believing that this is part of their duty and interest.

However, a country like the United States — which does not respect history because its history is the shortest in the world — will not care much for the history of others.

The U.S. Embassy letter is not only written in the style of intelligence services and is not only insolent and indicative of ignorance, it also transgresses against the facts. The letter quotes out of context excerpts of articles by our colleague Ahmad al-Jammal with the aim of inciting hositility toward him and toward *AL-KHALIJ* in order to serve the purpose of the letter. In the article published on 20 April 1983 — that is 10 months ago! — the letter quotes the following excerpt:

"The fact which one is not ashamed of admitting is that to a certain extent that incident gratified one's desire for revenge. It was satisfying to see the bodies of Americans blown up into pieces. It will be even more heartening to see Americans crying for their dead when the coffins arrive at U.S. airports and funerals are held."

The embassy letter stopped at this point, without referring to the rest of the article, which explains why such sentiments are felt. The article says: "It is a fact because it is based on the principle of retribution. We will not forget the children of Bahr al-Baqar [a school in Egypt] who were bombarded by Phantoms in their classrooms. Only their strewn bodies and copybooks with their drawings, writing, and the prints of their young fingers remained. We will not forget the workers of Abu Za'bal [in Egypt], who were martyred by U.S. planes presented to Israel. Mankind will not forget the people of Palestine and Lebanon who have been the victim of U.S. treachery and crimes, for the United States supported with all its might and power the Israeli war machine which mercilessly harvested them."

Has the embassy ignored these paragraphs because they weaken the credibility of the purpose of its letter? Very likely that is the reason.

As for the second article, which discussed the heroic operation that destroyed the Marine headquarters in Beirut, the article expressed part of the satisfaction felt by every Arab who followed the news of the very heroic operation that triggered the countdown for the withdrawal of the Marines from Beirut.

With regard to the third article, which refers to President Reagan in a manner described by the embassy as "in a way that has more to do with Al-Jammal's own complexes than with responsible criticism," and "a raving diatribe without rational argument," the letter's comments on this matter are ridiculous. It appears that the U.S. Embassy wants the countries of the world to erect statues for Reagan in their main squares, and anyone who opposes this idea "is suffering from complexes and is raving." Three years and 2 months have elapsed since Reagan assumed office. What calamities have befallen the world and the Arab during these years?!

We will not recall the fear that has struck the world because of living on the brink of a nuclear war as a result of Reagan's policy. This is not the place to put that policy on trial — many volumes would be needed for that. It suffices to refer the U.S. Embassy to the views of European research centers and to the European and Third World press which discussed this issue. No one can discuss Reagan's achievements rationally and objectively without condemning and ridiculing them.

Ridicule alone does not erase the bitterness created by U.S. policy in the Arab homeland. There is a black spot in the heart of every Arab. If one should analyze the black blood in it, one would find the word: United States.

There are always moments of sadness in the life of every Arab, and when we look for the causes for such moments we find that the United States is the principal cause. There are thousands of widows and orphans and martyrs in the Arab homeland who are victims of U.S. weapons. The United States is responsible for the dispersal, suffering, and pain of two peoples in the Arab world and for the destruction of their homeland. If there is terrorism in the world, the United States is its empire.

The United States was behind Israel in the June 1967 war. It was behind Israel in its shelling of Jordanian towns in 1968 and 1969. It was behind Israel in the destruction of factories, schools, and services in Egypt in 1969 and 1970. It was behind Israel in the

Deversoir pocket, in the destruction of economic installations in Egypt and Syria, and in the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor. The United States was behind Israel in the Camp David accords, in its invasion of Lebanon, and in the 17 May agreement. It is now Israel's strategic ally until the last drop of Arab oil and the last Arab breath.

This is the United States — the last party that has the right to talk about terrorism and rancor. It is the master of terrorism and rancor in the world. It is not only after our wealth and strategic position, but it is determined to destroy Arab civilization and to destroy the Arab nation and its future.

The United States is the last party qualified to talk about terrorism. The leaders of its strategic ally are the biggest terrorists in modern history. However, for the sake of its interests and calculations, the United States puts its hands in the hands of Begin, Shamir, and Sharon, hands that are stained with the blood of Arab women and children.

Begin is not a terrorist. Sharon is not a terrorist. The dictatorial regimes of South America, East Asia, and Africa are not terrorist. The military regimes that are supported by the United States are not terrorist. The cartel of military industries in the United States is not terrorist. The United States, where presidents are murdered and their killers are not found, and where presidents spy on their political opponents, does not know terrorism.

For the United States, terrorism is only Arab. Every Arab who says "I want to live," is in the eyes of the United States an extremist who must be intimidated and pursued, and against whom hostility must be incited. Once again we reject the U.S. Embassy letter in part and parcel. We reject "dialogue" with this embassy either through letters or any other means. We are not taken in by such high-sounding phrases as those in the beginning of the letter: "The United States is proud of its long history of freedom of the press." How does such a phrase apply to a letter such as the U.S. Embassy letter which encourages incitement and hostility and appoints U.S. diplomats as trustees over the world and the minds, views, and interests of its people? In any case, we never expected anything different from the embassy of the strategic ally of our enemy, Israel.

YAR

President Salih Returns From Aden Visit

GF180636 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and his accompanying delegation, returned to Ta'izz from Aden by automobile at 1400 today.

AR-RA'Y Says Labor Party Leader Hurt at Rally

JN211130 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Feb 84 p 22

[Text] Cairo, *AR-RA'Y* — The Egyptian newspaper *AL-AHRAR* has said that Labor Party leader Eng Ibrahim Shukri and several other officials of his party sustained various wounds and were admitted to Ad-Daqhaliyah Hospital after being attacked in an electorial rally. It added that the prosecution is investigating the incident under the supervision of the attorney general. This incident comes at a time when the electoral battle in Egypt is entering a sensitive stage due to the approaching date of elections in April. The new Wafd Party, which is the strongest competitor of the ruling NDP led by Husni Mubarak, will take part in these elections for the first time.

Israeli Terrorist Group Threatens Intellectuals

PM201116 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 15 Feb 84 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Israeli Terror in Cairo"]

[Text] A number of Egytpian intellectuals have received death threats from a Zionist terrorist organization called "Kafi." The letters were mailed in Cairo and addressed to the homes and places of work of those threatened. Among those who received these letters were Dr Latifah az-Zayyat, professor of English literature in 'Ayn Shams University and chairman of the Committee for the Defense of National Culture; Muhsin 'Awad, member of the Committee for the Defense of National Culture and of the editorial board of *AL-MUWAJAHAH* and writer for the *AL-AHALI* newspaper; Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Masiri, professor in the college of arts at Cairo University and in charge of compiling the Zionist encyclopedia; and Muhammad Hisham, a research assistant in the compilation of the encyclopedia and member of the Committee for the Defense of National Culture.

This is the first time that Israeli terrorist organizations have become active in Egypt since the signing of the 1979 treaty.

Cairo Papers Support Saudi Plan, Urge Realism

JN190712 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Press review]

[Text] Cairo press editorials and comments today centered on the latest developments in Lebanon. Under the headline "Compromise Solution," *AL-AHRAM* says editorially: If international conflict anywhere in the world is a conflict between states and men, something new has emerged in this conflict; it is the quality of the weapons. The paper explains that, ideally, the compromise solution gives each side its legitimate rights in exchange for mutual concessions. In its modern form, which is based on equal armed strength, the compromise solution can provide the ideal course for ending any conflict, no matter how fierce it has become.

Commenting on the same subject, *AL-AKHBAR* asks: Is there an end to what is taking place in Lebanon? The paper answers: This is a complicated question that is impossible to answer after Lebanon has been lost, or is about to be lost, amid a vast sea of acts of violence in which many parties are involved.

The paper continues: All security and peace plans have failed, but the roar of guns continues to resound and the number of dead and wounded continues to increase. The solution is to agree on anything, no matter how small, and then to sit down and negotiate.

AL-AKHBAR says all the leaders have made statements affirming their adherence to Lebanon's unity. There is also the Saudi initiative, which Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said was based on eight points proposed by President Amin al-Jumayyil. In this initiative, the Lebanese president makes enormous concessions in response to the demands of the Lebanese opposition.

The paper concludes: We hope that the nationalist leaders will seize this opportunity to stop the bloodshed. Every day, and in fact every minute, can be gained in the interest of everyone, particularly the Lebanese people who have suffered from the bitterness of divisions and violence.

Under the headline "The Realistic Approach to Peace in Lebanon," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says: It is obvious so far that the military successes the Druze and Shi'ite militias have achieved are tempting the Druze and Shi'ite leaders to adopt very extremist and rigid stands without considering the effect of such stands on the unity and safety of the Lebanese entity.

The paper adds: A realistic view says that the Saudi plan can be a realistic approach toward achieving peace in Lebanon, because this plan meets the Lebanese opposition's demands concerning the cancellation fo the agreement with Israel and the formation of a national unity government.

Moreover, this plan achieves Lebanon's security and safety through the principle of simultaneous withdrawal of all foreign forces, including the Israeli forces.

AL-AKHBAR Comments on Israeli Moves in Lebanon

JN200901 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — In its comment today, the Cairo newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* stresses that the only explanation for Israel's raids yesterday against Druze and Syrian positions in Lebanon is that it wants to deepen Arab disunity and division and to fan the fires of conflict which would allow Israel ultimately to achieve its illegitimate interests.

The newspaper adds: Israel wants these raids to be interpreted as an obstacle from the government in Tel Aviv to support one side against another in the Lebanese crisis, thereby increasing the degree of bitterness and vengance.

The paper calls on all the Arab factions in the Lebanese crisis to stop their intransigence and work toward finding a solution to the dreadful crisis in Lebanon so they can face Israel and its foolishness, madness, and crimes.

Commentary Warns of Outside Interference in Lebanon

JN211548 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Ahmad Sha'ban Commentary: "Only the Lebanese Can Ensure Lebanon's Sovereignity and Independence"]

[Text] Have events in Lebanon reached a dead end that prevents any solution of this issue? Has the specter of partition succeeded in asserting itself over Lebanon and become a fact? Will the Israeli presence in southern Lebanon become a permanent occupation? These questions present themselves because of the latest developments of the situation in the Lebanese arena, especially following the Israeli raids agaisnt some positions and the movement of Israeli armored units toward the battle areas.

The events intermingled and followed each other with incredible speed, while discussions were being made to solve the issue and bring peace to the Lebanese brothers. The latest deterioration has shuffled the cards on the issue. Instead of narrowing the differences among the warring factions, the estrangement increased, the conflict widened, and things became increasingly complicated.

By viewing the situation in perspective and not being biased toward any of the factions in the Lebanese conflict, we see that the solution to the issue is in the hands of the Lebanese and that matters will return to normal only if interference in their affairs cease. All events since the beginning of the Lebanese conflict 9 years ago have proven that there are always complications as a result of outside intervention. Since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon has increased the intensity of the problem, and since the escalating of outside intervention has detoured the issue from the road toward a solution, we see that the only way — which all the sons of Lebanon undoubtedly realize — is to have both the solution and the cards of the game in their hands. The way to stop the bloodletting passes through Beirut, and not through any other capital.

This does not mean closing the doors on sincere mediation efforts among the brothers. What we mean is that all the sons of Lebanon who are now in conflict should work with a Lebanese spirit that is removed from any foreign influence. Everyone involved in war should know that the foreign side that supports this or that faction does not seek Lebanon's well-being, but is working for the benefit of its own interests — that is, the interests of the foreign side.

If all of the Lebanese and Arab people were happy about the first dialogue meeting held by the Lebanese — despite the fact that it was held in Geneva, away from the land of Lebanon — then they must be feeling very sorry that this dialogue has not continued. We hear many well-meaning statements expressed by this or that Lebanese faction. These statements are full of love for and devotion to Lebanon. All of them should translate these good wishes and feelings into positive steps and actions on the road toward reaching a solution acceptable to all Lebanese, one that is removed from any foreign infuluence and based on building trust among the sons of the one nation.

Recent reports say that the Lebanese Christian spiritual summit conference has called for a dialogue to be held quickly among all the Lebanese sects, and has stressed that Lebanon's salvation can only come at the hands of the Lebanese themselves. Such a call constitutes a base with which we agree and which we support. We hope that this will be translated into action that preserves what remains of Lebanon and brings it out of the furnace of the escalating civil war. This war must be stopped now, before we reach a dead end that prevents finding a solution and a dead end where fear of the specter of partition and occupation becomes a certain, unalterable fact.

Dailies Criticize Syrian Role in Lebanon

JN210749 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) — The newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* has warned the Lebanese opposition and Syria against rejecting the Saudi plan on peace in Lebanon, which includes the abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement. In its commentary today, the paper says that the only alternative to the rejection of the Saudi plan is the continuation of the fighting and political chaos in Lebanon, whose price will again be paid by the Lebanese people who have been sufering for about 9 years.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: If the Lebanese opposition imagines that the Marines' withdrawal from Beirut will give it a golden opportunity to score a military victory, it will be mistaken because it forgets the Israeli military presence and the dangers this presence poses to it. Concluding, the paper says that care for Lebanon's welfare makes it incumbent on the opposition there to accept any reasonable political solution that achieves part of its demands without ignoring the demands of the other factions.

Commenting on the same subject, the newspaper *AL-AHRAM* discusses the ability of Syrian influence in Lebanon to sabotage any internal or external officials agreement considering that the dimensions of Syrian power there reached the extent of trying to impose a solution that is acceptable to it even by means of absolute force.

The paper adds: Therefore, the danger posed to Lebanon is not only an Israeli one, as reported, but also an Arab danger related to the Arabs in the first place. The paper indicates in this regard that an Arab can understand the true nature of what is taking place in Lebanon, but it is difficult for a westerner to realize the true situation amid the war that has been raging among the Lebanese communities for years.

AL-AHRAM Criticizes Israeli Raids in Lebanon

JN221206 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — *AL-AHRAM* has stressed that by interfering militarily among the Lebanese factions and by strafing the Druze and Shi'ite positions in the Ash-Shuf Mountains and Ad-Damur, Israel wants to demonstrate the Israeli military presence and the need to take this presence into account in any possible settlement or plans.

In a commentary today, the paper says: Israel pretended that by these violent raids, in which civilians fell victim as usual, it was supporting Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil against his opponents. This is an obvious flimsy pretext because it was President al-Jumayyil that cancelled the Israeli-Lebanese agreement when he refused to sign it for the sake of internal reconciliation.

AL-AHRAM indicates that by its raids on eastern and southern Beirut away from its original positions in southern Lebanon, Israel wants to heat up the situation so that tranquility is not possible through the plans presented for the achievement of a reconciliation which could enable the Lebanese Army — even after reforming its sectarian structure — to extend its jurisdiction to the occupied south.

AL-AHALI Views Mubarak's Washington Visit

PM172039 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 15 Feb 84 p 2

[Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad: "Our Foreign Policy" column: "Mubarak in Washington"]

[Text] Our so-called national newspapers described President Mubarak's visit to Washington as extremely important because crossroads, which gives Cairo the opportunity to play a role befitting its status, when the destinies of the area are being decided.

In fact the visit has given U.S. diplomacy the opportunity to revive Reagan's initiative when that diplomacy was declaring its bankruptcy in Lebanon. The visit was an opportunity to arrange a meeting between Mubarak and King Husayn at Reagan's table, as a continuation of the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting and preparatory to Jordanian-Palestinian talks in order to establish a Jordanian- Palestinian confederation in accordance with the Reagan initiative. This was meant to suggest that U.S. "peace" initiatives still have a role to play in Lebanon after the U.S. "peace-keeping" force in Lebanon has turned into a force of aggression and war; a force covering up its failure and its abandonment of its previous commitments by concentrated shelling of sections of the Lebanese community which are an indivisible part of the Lebanese entity; a force that has exposed the U.S. face in the Middle East as being no different from the aggressive face it showed in Vietnam, in Southeast Asia, and more recently in Grenada, in Central America.

Our so-called national newspapers have referred to ideas which Mubarak carried to Washington in order to fill the vacuum after the withdrawal of the multinational force. The ideas propose combing the Egyptian-French plan, the Fes resolutions, and the Reagan plan because, as *AL-AHRAM* put it, "proposing that the problem be solved with Reagan's initiative alone has become unacceptable and out of the question, since the United States has withdrawn from Lebanon and failed to support Lebanese legitimacy or to preserve Lebanon's territorial integrity, or indeed to ensure the withdrawal of foreign forces from there."

Indeed, *AL-AHRAM* went so far as to attribute the idea of forming an emergency force within the UN framework to President Mubarak, with the aim of involving the Soviet Union in the decision and obtaining its approval. This suggests not only that the Reagan initiative is no longer acceptable and out of the question, but also that reliance on one superpower, the United States, without the other superpower, the Soviet Union, does not achieve peace and indeed exposes the area to greater disturbances.

Nevertheless, the circumstances that surrounded the visit make it doubtful that President Mubarak had the opportunity to submit his views. Unfortunately for him, Soviet President Andropov's funeral took place on the same day he met with President Reagan, when the White House was preoccupied more with this extremely critical juncture for international issues, foremost among which are Washington's deteriorating relations with Moscow, than with regional issues in the Middle East.

There was also the original reason for President Mubarak's sudden visit to Washington, which was the U.S. Administration's failure to keep its earlier promises to consider deferring some of Egypt's debts, which are placing an extremely heavy burden on our national economy, to turn military loans into outright grants, and to introduce some flexibility into the utilization of U.S. aid - all of which does not strengthen Egypt's negotiating position toward the United States at a time when the United States needs to revive the Reagan initiative in order to cover up its failure in Lebanon. What will the visit achieve in the final analysis? Is not the Lebanon lesson enough to confirm that it is time to finally relinguish the policy of placing all bets on the United States?

AL-AHRAM Notes Israel's Anxiety Over Peace Moves

JN200945 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — In its editoral today, the Cairo newspaper *AL-AHRAM* expresses its surprise at the continued concern shown by the rulers of Israel whenever an Arab peace move aimed at finding a suitable solution for the Middle East problem is made. The paper points to the latest Israeli worries expressed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir over the results of the summit meeting in Washington among President Husni Mubarak, President Ronald Reagan, and King Husayn of Jordan.

The paper says: The Egyptian peace move is clear to all, so why do the Israelis constantly worry? Unless, of course, there are hidden fears that this peace move may conflict with existing unannounced plans in Israeli files? The paper concludes: No one argues the fact that the states of the Middle East are independent sovereign states, and tha is why they are members in international organizations recognized by everyone. Some of these states, like Egypt, have reached the respected position of membership in the highest of international councils — the UN Security Council. Why should Israel worry then when it knows Egypt's international ties, not only with Israel, but with the whole world?

Burundi Foreign Minister Arrives 20 Feb

JN201203 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — Laurent Nzeyimana, Burundi's foreign affairs and cooperation minister, arrived in Cairo this morning on a 6-day visit to Egypt. In a statement on his arrival, the foreign minister praised both the relations that bind Egypt to Burundi and the support Egypt gave to his country until it achieved its independence. He added that his talks in Cairo will deal with all African issues and that he will exchange views on the methods of solving these issues. The talks will deal with strengthening relations between the two countries, he said.

The official talks between Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the foreign minister of Burundi are scheduled to begin this evening. The talks will deal with African issues and coordination between the two countries during the sessions of the OAU Council of Ministers meeting that will be held in Addis Ababa next week.

Talks With Ghali Begin

JN201922 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Official talks between Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Laurent Nzeyimana, Burundi's foreign affairs and cooperation minister who is currently visiting Cairo, began at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this evening. The two sides reviewed international and African issues within the framework of the common Burundi-Egyptian objectives of establishing peace and security in both Africa and the world, and of solving disputes peacefully.

At the beginning of the session, Ghali explained Egypt's stand on developments in the Middle East situation and its efforts to make peace prevalent in the region. He also explained the results of President Husni Mubarak's talks in a number of African countries.

The foreign Ministers of Egypt and Burundi discussed ways to bolster relations between the two countries in the political, economic, technical, and cultural fields.

Meeting With Mubarak Reported

JN210857 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0843 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received at Al-'urubah Palace this morning Laurent Nzeyimana, Burundi's foreign affairs and cooperation minister. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Gedeon Magete, Burundi's ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting. The Burundian foreign minister arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 6-day visit.

'Ali, Burundi Minister Hold Talks

JN211438 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received today Laurent Nzeyimana, Burundi's foreign affairs and cooperation minister who is currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, they reviewed current African issues and the efforts being made to solve the problems of Namibia and Chad. They discussed topics related to the OAU Ministerial Council, which will convene in Addis Ababa next Monday. The two officials also reviewed the Middle East situation and Egypt's efforts and contacts to halt the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and solve the Palestine question. They also reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries, stressing the need to promote these relations in various fields

President Urges Army, Citizens To Crush 'Enemy'

JN220803 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text of President Saddam Husayn's message to Army and people on 22 February 1984 — read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

From Saddam Husayn to the glorious men in our valiant Armed Forces, to the brave men of the Popular Army, and to all the sons of cherished Iraq. Brethren: It has become clear that the Iranian enemy is getting ready to fight you in a battle which its rulers, who were defeated in front of you on the battlefields, called decisive. I do not think any of you is unaware of what the greedy enemy means by the word decisive. It aims at occupying Iraq's lands, towns, and villages. It also aims at turning the proud Iraqis into humiliated servants for the land of Persia and its rulers — the charlatans and jugglers. It aims at returning free and prosperous Iraq to the epochs of humiliation, backwardness, fragmentation, and loss. It wants to humiliate you and your kinfolk as well as to destroy your present and future and rob the radiance of might and hope from the eyes of your children. It wants to desecrate your land and place the yoke of slavery and captivity around the necks of your women, daughters, sisters, and mothers. This is what the enemy wants and means.

I am confident that the free and proud men of Iraq, who have resisted and fought the enemy for over 40 months in defense of land and honor, will today fight it with further heroism and capability. The brave men, who made the greedy enemy taste the bitterness of defeat throughout 4 years of war, will confront the enemy in this battle with all the present and past dignity. They will make it taste the bitterness of disappointment. I am confident that you will wage a valiant and successful battle, in the same manner as you have previously waged it east of Basra, east of Maysan, east of Mandali, in the Panjwin sector, and in other honorable battles during which you defeated the enemy and destroyed its wicked dreams.

O men, be ready to confront and crush the enemy. Let everyone of you remember these meanings when the fighting intensifies and when the battle becomes fierce. Let your banners remain white, your foreheads radiant, and heads uplifted. I am, with God's help, confident of your victory. Your weapons are stronger, your preparedness is better, accomplishments are greater, your faith is deeper, and your fortitude is more vigorous. You are right and the enemy is wrong.

The grandees of charlatanism, jugglery, and crime wanted it to be a decisive battle, so let it be a decisive battle, in which Iraq's victory is consolidated and in which the defeat of their wicked expansionist and hostile ambitions is confirmed. Let it be a decisive battle on the road of might, glory, and peace. May God grant you success. May God be with you, and give you further strength, patience, and fortitude. May God guide you along the road of victory, the road of justice and peace.

Disgrace to the ones who have sick dreams. Let their final defeat be by your hands, O brave men of Iraq, ancestors of the heroes of the first Al-Qadisiyah, and heroes of the second Al-Qadisiyah. Victory is only granted by God. May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

[Dated] 22 February 1984

Commanders Respond to President

JN221428 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) — The Iraqi military commanders have stated the following: We are quite prepared and our targets are clear and fixed. Our weapons are ready, and we are waiting for the order to respond decisively to the aggression in order to turn the enemy territory into a hell.

With these strong and confident phrases several Iraqi military commanders addressed President Saddam Husayn today in response to the message he addressed to the Iraqi Armed Forces earlier today.

The commander of the Air Force and Air Defense said that the Iraqi pilots are fully prepared to attack the Iranian targets, deter aggression, and transform the enemy territory into a continuous hell. He added: Our confidence in God, the great leader, the proud people, and the valiant Army is firmly established; a matter which makes victory definite and the defeat of the enemy certain.

The III Army Corps commander stressed that his forces are ready to mercilessly crush the aggressors, inflict the worst defeat on them, and subjugate their spirit of aggression.

Addressing President Saddam Husayn, he said: Your message to your fighters has a special meaning and had a great effect on them and their insistence on fighting the treacherous enemy. He emphasized that his Corps' soldiers are determined to make it a decisive battle and an end to war.

He added: We are determined to keep our Iraq strong and dignified, our banner lofty, and the Arab nation great and mighty with its innocent son Saddam Husayn, the victorious leader and pride of the Arabs.

The II Army Corps commander stressed that his forces are strong enough to settle the battle in our favor and score victory because these forces are determined to defend honor. He added that his soldiers are waiting for the battle in order to score for their sons, daughters, and families immortal epics of pride and dignity. He emphasized: We will protect the homeland, safeguard honor, and destroy the rotten heads so that Iraq's banner will remain lofty.

The commander of the Naval Force and Coastal Defense stressed that the Iranian aggression is doomed to defeat. He added that all the Naval Force personnel are now ready to teach the enemy hard lessons.

He added that the new defeat will certainly destroy what is left of the Iranian forces and bury these forces' hostile attempts forever.

Addressing himself to President Saddam Husayn, the I Army Corps commander said: Your hero soldiers in this Corps who are stationed on the mountain peaks of the northern region of the homeland, are ready to crush the enemy and realize a decisive victory. He added: With great capability, we will carry out your orders of transforming our borders into a large graveyard for the invading enemies. He asserted that his force will make the enemy forces taste bitter defeat and ignominy.

Air Force Preparedness Noted

JN221110 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Remember thy Lord inspired the angels with the message: I am with you: give firmness to the believers. [Koranic verse]

To the president of the republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, from the commander of the Air Force and Air Defense.

The leader president, may God preserve him: Your Air Froce and heroic pilots are fully prepared. Our targets are clear and fixed. Our weapons are ready and waiting for the order to decisively reply to aggression in order to turn the enemy territory into a continuous hell. Our confidence in God, the great leader, the proud people, and the valiant Army is firmly established. This makes victory definite and the defeat of the enemy certain. We will triumph with the help of the Almighty God.

[Signed] The Lieutenant General, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, 22 February 1984.

Iranian Force Wiped Out in Two Sectors 22 Feb

JN220652 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0632 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

It was not we that wronged them: They wronged their own souls. [Koranic verse]

Last night a rancorous enemy force tried to attack the northern and southern flanks of the IV Army Corps in the two sectors of (Chilat) and Ash-Shib. The attacking force was destroyed and wiped out, except for those who fled to save their souls under the fire of the heroic IV Army Corps units, which are lying in wait for the treacherous and greedy enemy. The fate of anyone who dares to approach our positions will be no better than the fate of those who fought in the previous Ash-Shib, At-Tib, and Fekkeh battles, when their bodies were left as prey for vultures.

God is great. Victory for great Iraq; disgrace and shame for the charlatan jugglers in Qom and Tehran.

[Dated] 22 February 1984

Commander Confirms Iranian Defeat

JN220925 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military commander has emphasized that the deceptive attempts to which the Iranian side resorted in order to cover up its defeat in the new military operation are exactly the same as in all the other operations which ended with loss and destruction.

In a statement to an INA correspondent on the battlefield this morning, the military commander said that some of those who managed to flee from the Iranian force which attacked the northern and southern flanks of the IV Army Corps last night must have told the Iranian commands about what they saw at the Iraqi forces' frontlines.

The Iraqi field commander added that those Iranians who were lucky enough to flee are good evidence of the ugly fate of the first wave of attackers.

He said that the Iranian dead, which litter the battlefield cannot be concealed by the false Iranian claims about an advance in this or that direction. Such claims, he added, are aimed at averting the bitter and tragic fact of an operation which the Iraqi defenders faced with great firmness and which resulted in the complete annihilation of the attacking Iranian force.

Armed Forces Communique No 1,379 - 21 February

JN211729 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,379 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 21 February 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As the rancorous Iranian enemy continues its flagrant aggression against steadfast Iraq, it will always find our Army and people the great heroes who will lie in wait for their reckless adventures. We will teach their forces of aggression eloquent lessons through our sacrifices, bravery, and boldness. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. An enemy concentration was sighted in front of our forward units positions in the central sector of the front. Our units opened fire, killing five and wounding others. They also destroyed one armored vehicle, three other vehicles, two infantry postions, and three hardware stockpiles.

2. One of our forward units fired on an enemy patrol that attempted to advance toward our forward positions in the area east of Basra. One enemy soldier was killed, another wounded, and the rest of the patrol members fled. In another area of the same sector, one emplacement for a medium caliber machine gun was destroyed, and those manning it were killed.

3. Our Army helicopter gunships attacked an enemy concentration opposite our forward positions in the area east of Basra

today. One observation post and one hardware stockpile were destroyed. All of our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 February 1984.

Spokesman Predicts 'Imminent' Attack by Iran

JN211658 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1539 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Armed Forces General Command has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Then guard yourselves against a day when one soul shall not avail another, nor shall intercession be accepted for her, nor shall compensation be taken from her, nor shall anyone be helped from outside. [Koranic verse]

Information available to us, as well as all indications, point out that the Iranian regime is preparing for a large-scale military offensive aimed at penetrating Iraqi borders, and destroying and occupying Iraqi cities and villages. The Iranian leaders' statement corroborates the fact that this offensive has become imminent. These suspect, criminal leaders have been threatening to mount this offensive for several weeks.

Let these suspect, ignorant leaders who are the Zionists' allies know that just as we previously destroyed their aggressive attempts against our land, villages, and cities, we will also confront this aggression and destroy it with our well known strength, firmness, and determination. We will crush the demented aggressors and their decaying brains.

Iraq, God willing, will remain free, strong, and proud. Iraqi soil, villages, and cities will remain free and purged from any enemy desecration. Let the Tehran rulers know that this time we will not be satisfied with confronting their aggression by defensive means, and will not confine our military activities to the framework of defensive retaliation. In addition to our vehement confrontation of those who will commit aggression against our land and people, we will, God willing, carry out activities that will be commensurate with the aggressors' intentions and with the damages that our villages and cities may sustain as a result of their aggression, even if this forces us to carry out activities against targets deep inside Iranian territory, no matter what kind of targets they may be. We will consider the enemy's large military concentrations in Iranian villages and cities to be military targets. We will attack them with the appropriate means. We have wanted to issue our warning beforehand. He who warns is excused.

We call on the Iranian people to exercise their role by putting pressure on their criminal rulers in order to prevent them from committing this new crime against both the Iranian people and our people. We also call on those who have been driven to the battle of aggression by the charlatan Khomeyni guards, under the cover of what the allies of Zionism call the Jerusalem maneuvers and the Jerusalem liberation, to keep away from our borders and desist from being involved in committing aggression against us. Otherwise, their fate, God willing, will be certain death. The empty-headed aggressors must know that there is a certain insecticide for every kind of insect, no matter how many there may be. We have this insecticide.

Now that the facts about the forthcoming Iranian aggression have become known to everyone, we would like to affirm that this criminal Iranian regime is solely responsible for the dire consequences that will arise from its aggression. Iraq can only defend its sovereignty and security with all possible strength, on all levels, and with all the means available to it. It must defend its people and their basic interests.

Those international circles that are concerned with the region's situation and its serious possibilities, and with the causes of peace and stability in the region and in the world, are called on to shoulder their responsibilities concerning this situation and to carry out their obligations in order to deter the aggressive Iranian regime and prevent it from carrying out its evil designs.

These designs are aimed not only against Iraq, but against the entire region, as well as world peace.

For our part, we affirm that great, strong, and proud Iraq, which has crushed dozens of aggressive attempts in the past, will crush this new attempt and will transform it into a lesson for the enemy. Success comes from Almighty God . God is great. Victory is for Iraq, and death is for the enemies of Iraq and the Iraqi nation.

[Signed] Spokesman for the Armed Forces General Command, 21 February 1984.

Iranian Artillery Shells Ash-Shihabi 21 Feb

JN212000 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0745 this morning, the criminal Iranian regime shelled the town of Ash-Shihabi with heavy artillery. The shelling destroyed two houses and damaged the town's mosque, a school, a number of civilian establishments, and some property.

Thus, the Iranian enemy has not honored its promises. As we expected, the Iranian regime's declaration that it will not shell Iraqi cities was meant to save it from its impasse before the people of Iran and world public opinion. Our evaluation, of this regime and its criminal deeds has not been wrong.

God is great. There will be a clear victory for our great Iraq. Glory to our heroic people. Shame and ignominy to the ruling charlatans in Iran.

[Dated] 21 February 1984.

Correspondents Report on POW's, Iranian Dead

JN221013 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) — An INA correspondent in the IV Army Corps' sector said this morning that he saw a large number of Iranian prisoners of war being evacuated to the rear by the Iraqi forces. He added that these POW's are now being transported to towns far away from the military positions.

Another correspondent in a forward position saw the bodies of the attacking Iranians littering the area beyond the first defensive lines. They were killed due to the strong fire which faced them right from the beginning.

A field commander told INA that the lightening speed and great violence with which the Iraqi forces crushed the new Iranian attack astonished the attackers and their commanders.

Tariq 'Aziz Message to Perez de Cullar Reported

JN221155 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) — Iraq has emphasized that any agreement on avoiding strikes at civilian targets in Iraq and Iran should be under UN supervision.

In a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar last night, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said: Such international supervision makes it possible to acquaint the international community with the side that continues to strike at civilian targets.

He added: Experience has proven that the Iranian statements on refraining from striking the border towns and villages are unreliable. In this regard, he indicated that the Iranian artillery has been shelling the Iraqi border towns and villages daily since the beginning of war.

Tariq 'Aziz said that the Iranian Government continues to deny shelling Iraqi towns even after this was confirmed in the report by the UN team which visited the two countries last May on an investigation mission.

He recalled Iraq's decision on the 14th of this month to halt attacks on selected targets in some Iranian towns for 1 week. He indicated that Iraq abided by its decision to the letter, whereas the Iranian regime exploited this opportunity and attacked civilian targets in Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Sayyid Sadiq, and Ba'qubah throughout 5 days.

He added that the Iranian regime then claimed that the Iraqi forces attacked civilian targets in Iran during this period. Thus, he said, we cannot rely on the Iranian statements and claims as a guarantee to avoid strikes at Iraqi towns, villages, and civilian inhabitants.

The Iraqi official said that differences might arise on the classification of the civilian targets within the context of the war which Iran insists on launching against Iraq in contravention of the UN Security Council's resolutions which call for solving the conflict through negotiations.

For the sake of avoiding the resumption of shelling civilian targets and avoiding differences on violations there must be effective arrangements to secure international supervision.

'Aziz added: Iraq believes that the United Nations is capable of securing these arrangements. Otherwise, he said, Iran will be able to continue its policy of striking at Iraqi towns and denying that it does. [sentence indistinct]

Concluding his message, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister called on the UN secretary general to undertake speedy initiatives to ensure these arrangements as soon as possible under UN supervision or the supervision of any other party acceptable to both sides.

Ambassador to Libya Returns Home 21 February

JN212110 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Sami ash-Shamayilah, Jordanian ambassador to Libya, returned to Amman tonight in response to a summons by the Jordanian Government following the heinous act of aggression against the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli on Saturday. Embassy Counselor Faysal Khurshid arrived with the ambassador.

Dailies on U.S. Withdrawal, Israeli Actions

JN221142 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The U.S. Withdrawal and Many Lessons," *AR-RA'Y* says: The Americans came to Lebanon to evacuate the Zionist invasion forces and restore unity, security, and stability to Lebanon. Yesterday, the U.S. forces began their withdrawal while the Zionist invasion is entrenching itself and while Lebanon is in a worse state of framentation, destruction, and lack of security and peace than it was before the U.S. presence on its territory and coast.

Years ago, on the eve of the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam, Henry Kissinger announced that the United States would not allow anyone to quench its thirst and that the Vietnamese war is a lesson that only the Americans can comprehend and learn from. Now, in this part of the world, we are calling on the United States to restudy the Lebanese lesson and learn from it.

We would like to point to certain facts that no one can ignore: First, options cannot be imposed on people through force. Military superiority that can kill and destroy cannot achieve political results that would lead to the capitulation of people and force them to accept hegemony and containment. Second, the Arab-Zionist conflict is distinguished by the fact that there is no place in this part of the world for two opposing parties. The real and only solution to this conflict is the final victory of one party and the final defeat of the other. Third, all U.S. and Zionist calculations that are based on the current Arab situation, fragmentation, lack of soldiarity, and conflict of wills are false. They do not take into consideration our nation's hidden force and the magnitude of the Arab peoples' dear hopes and aspirations.

AR-RA'Y concludes: Although we hope there will be an end to the suffering and pain of fraternal Lebanon, we would like to stress that this can be achieved only by Lebanese and Arab hands, because they are the only ones concerned about this homeland's presence and future, and because everyone else has only worked to fragment this homeland and spread death and destruction in the area from the Gulf to the ocean.

Under the headline "Holding back the Hands of the Clock," *AD-DUSTUR* says: Israel's demonstration of force in Lebanon goes far beyond serving as a reminder of its military and political presence, a presence that can directly influence developments in the Lebanese crisis. It is an attempt to hold back the hands of the clock that has turned against the Zionist plans and dreams in southern and northern Lebanon. In light of all the recent developments in Lebanon, where strong winds have swept away many of the achievements of the so-called Peace for Galilee operation which Israel has tried to entrench, the military patrols that are crossing the Al-Awwali River to the north and the frequent air raids are within the framework of a desperate operation to control these developments or prevent them from ending the direct Israeli occupation of a large part of Lebanon.

AD-DUSTUR adds: The Israeli aggressions of the past few days against some areas of Lebanon and the continuous provocations against nationalist areas and groups hostile to the Israeli presence represent extraordinary Zionist concern over the Lebanese developments and expose Israel's embarrassment and hesitation regarding the Israeli plan that is being prepared in reply to these developments.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The current Israeli demonstration offorce and its consequences and complications necessitate that the Lebanese nationalist parties, before any other Lebanese party, be aware of the consequences of a wider Israeli interference that would jeopardize the nationalist achievements. Therefore, these forces must encourage the Lebanese Government to achieve national reconciliation in order to foil Israel's plan of lying in wait for Lebanon, a plan to recoup all the Israeli gains that have been eliminated by recent developments.

AR-RA'Y on U.S. Policy Failure in Middle East

JN180911 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, *AR-RA'Y* says: U.S. media did not come up with anything new when they said that Reagan's policy in the Middle East has collapsed and that U.S. diplomacy in the region has failed. The collapse and failure have not appeared just now, although the U.S. media could only see them when the Lebanese president canceled the 17 May agreement. The U.S. President's policy in the Middle East has failed because it lost its credibility toward the Palestine cause and the Lebanese problem.

When President Reagan declared his peace plan, he committed himself to achieving a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and to stopping Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories — two conditions indispensable to providing Arab momentum for the plan. Instead of fulfilling its commitment, the U.S. Administration signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Israel, gave it bountiful economic and military aid, and covered it with diplomatic protection and political support in international circles to the extent that the administration did not hesitate to withdraw from UNESCO out of courtesy to Israel. Thus, U.S. policy in the region collapsed when its credibility collpased — a long time before President Amin al-Jumayyil canceled the 17 May agreement.

AR-RA'Y continues: We must recall that the U.S. Administration is still entrenching this collapse by colluding with the Israeli aggressors and by using its policy toward the Palestine cause and the Lebanese problem to serve the purposes of the U.S. presidential elections. The collapse of credibility is not only confined to the failure of U.S. policy and diplomacy in the Middle East; it is reflected in the U.S. electoral arena itself.

The U.S. Administration must not expect any success for its policy in the region so long as it has not made any move to regain its lost credibility. U.S. decisionmakers must realize that supporting aggression will not produce a successful policy and that wasting credibility will not provide confidence and a good reputation — two basic matters for achieving success, especially in this part of the world.

UNICEF To Move Offices From Beirut to Amman

JN192028 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] A cabinet session chaired by Prime Minister Mr Ahmad 'Ubaydat agreed today to a request by the UNICEF to move its offices from Beirut to Amman. The UNICEF will be stationed for 2 years in Amman before a permanent venue is decided upon.

Government Reportedly To Cancel May Agreement

NC220725 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Contacts will be intensified again today dealing with the Lebanese question amid encouraging reports on the attempts to end the attrition and emerge from the whirlpool of the tribulation. The contacts are assuming new dimensions at home and in the Arab and international arenas. These contacts are in addition to the various meetings of the political and spiritual leaders.

Senior Lebanese officials are waiting for the return of Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri, who will brief them on the results of the consultations being held in Damascus. He will brief them, in particular, on the consultations which Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz is holding. The crown prince met again with President Hafiz al-Asad last night. He is expected to leave Damascus for London today.

Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met yesterday with Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, Saudi ambassador to Washington, and Rafiq al-Hariri. After the 3-hour meeting, Prince Bandar said the atmosphere was very positive and that his country is doing its utmost to stop the fighting in Lebanon.

According to Beirut reports, the efforts to cancel the 17 May agreement are approaching their end. It was reported that the regime has decided in principle to cancel the agreement and communicated this decision to some political leaders. However, the announcement of the cancellation is being withheld until the discussions which Prince 'Abdallah and Rafiq al-Hariri are holding are completed. Prince Bandar and Al-Hariri will also discuss subsequent measures. These measures are supposed to result in a genuine relaxation of the situation in Lebanon.

The reports add that the regime is now studying all options in order to provide security for all of Lebanon and guarantee the withdrawal of all foreign forces.

Al-Hariri Briefs Salim on Damascus Talks

NC212119 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Within the framework of the consultations taking place regarding the Lebanese situation and other developments, particularly the Saudi initiative, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim this evening received a telephone call from Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri, who is in Damascus with the delegation accompanying Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah. Al-Hariri briefed Salim on the results of the Syrian-Saudi talks concerning the Lebanese situation. Al-Hariri informed Minister Salim that he will arrive in Beirut later to convey the results of the discussions which were held in Damascus and the Syrian position on the situation in Lebanon.

Salim Denies 'Final Decision' on May Agreement

NC211954 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Following his return from Zgharta this afternoon, Minister Elie Salim denied that President al-Jumayyil had made any final decision regarding the 17 May agreement. Salim said that the president is still examining all the proposals and offers presented to the Lebanese side in light of Lebanon's supreme interests and the need to restore full national sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and to bring about a withdrawal of all foreign forces. Salim added that Al-Jumayyil is studying every proposal supplied by any party according to how helpful it is in guaranteeing the return of Lebanese sovereignty to the south, the north, and the Al-Biqa' valley.

Al-Wazzan Consults With Salim, Khuri 21 Feb

NC211334 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has received a telephone call from Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim. They discussed the stage reached by the current consultations on the local, Arab, and international levels, particularly the Saudi mediation. During the conversation, Prime Minister al-Wazzan reiterated his position regarding the need to publicly declare the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, not to ratify the agreement, and to find an alternative formula.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan also received a similar call from Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri. The prime minister inquired about the investigation he requested on the eve of the resignation of his government regarding the shelling of the southern suburb. He asked that the investigation report be submitted to him as soon as possible in order to define responsibility.

Birri Holds Contacts on West Beirut Security

NC212246 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Amal Movement leader Birri tonight phoned Mufti of the Republic Hasan Khalid; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams Ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council; and Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement—Al-Murabitun. He also received telephone calls from [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, Malik Salam, and Dr Ilyas Sadah. Birri received a delegation from the Social Nationalist Syrian Party led by Marwan (Faris).

A meeting was held later in the residence of former Minister Malik Salam. The meeting was attended by [former] Presidents Salim al-Huss and Rashid al-Sulh; Lawyer Birri; former Ministers Khalid Junblatt, Narwan Hamadah, Nasim al-Barbir, Malik Salam, and Muhsin Dallul.

The conferees discussed the decision to hand over security responsibilities in West Beirut to the Internal Security Forces, aided by the Army forces there. They wished this step success. The conferees also reviewed the painful situation in the Ra's An-Nab' area and discussed means to reopen the port and airport as soon as possible.

Birri on Army Deployment

NC211744 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1655 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, who returned from the north today, held a news conference this afternoon. He announced that the Army will be deployed in West Beirut on Thursday in order to assist the Internal Security Forces in maintaining the security of the citizens, utilities, public and private institutions, and embassies. Birri said the following at the beginning of his news conference:

[Begin recording] Out of our concern for the safety of nationalist [West] Beirut, the Amal Movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, and all nationalist forces and figures have decided to call on the Army forces stationed in West Beirut to assist the Internal Security Forces in maintaining the security of the citizens, the utilities, the public and private institutions, and the embassies, as well as in pursuing those who undermine the citizens' safety. Consequently, we announce that the Army will be deployed in West Beirut on Thursday, beginning at 0800.

I appeal to all nationalist forces and the citizens in general to facilitate its mission and the mission of the Internal Security Forces for the sake of the public interest. The 6th Brigade is asked to assume responsibility for Airport Road and the International Airport, together with the Internl Security Forces. The reopening of the airport will be announced very soon, after contacts in this regard have been completed. [end recording]

Asked about the results of the talks held in Damascus concerning the Palestinians, Birri said:

[Begin recording] A meeting was held in the office of the Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister attended by the National Salvation Front, the Amal Movement, and Palestinian leaders. The subject was discussed with utmost frankness. It was pointed out that the security of the Palestinian civilians in Lebanon, and particularly in Beirut and the southern suburb, is the same as the security of the Lebanese; that the most useful thing right now is the dispatch of woolen blankets instead of artillery batteries; and that the armed presence is harmful even to the Palestinian brothers. Subsequently, understanding was reached on this basis. [end recording]

Birri Visits Two Army Barracks 20 Feb

NC202129 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2100 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] This afternoon Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri visited the Ablah and Riyaq barracks where he met with Brigadier General Ibrahim Shahin, commander of the 1st Brigade, and inspected the conditions of the officers and soldiers there. He urged the maintenance of the national Army's morale and prepredness to move to the south at the right opportunity.

LE MONDE Interviews Amal Leader on Developments

PM171448 Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Feb 84 p 3

[Interview with Lebanese Amal leader Nabih Birri by Francoise Chipaux and Lucien George in Beirut — date not given]

[Text] Question: What prompted you to launch the battle for West Beirut?

Answer: The immediate reason was the government's intention to replace the Army's 6th Brigade deployed in West Beirut with the one that had ravaged the southern suburb 3 days earlier. When tanks advanced to enter West Beirut at approximately 1020 hours on Monday 6 February, we gave the battle order. However, that was only the element which sparked off a much more profound conflict of which the southern suburb was a symptom.

Question: Why the southern suburb?

Answer: Approximately 25 percent of the Lebanese population (roughly 700,000 people) live in that suburb at the gates of Beirut. That zone is naturally primarily Shi'ite, but a considerable number of Christians live there as well, especially in Harat Hurayk — where they remain — as well as Sunnis and Druzes. All those people have just one thing in common: they are poor and underprivileged. In addition, the southern suburb is an intersection which controls the roads to the southern Al-Biqa' and the airport. We invited President Amin al-Jumayyil immediately after his election to make the southern suburb a model of fair government. I tried everything. I met with President al-Jumayyil three times and had about a dozen meetings with his advisers. It was in vain. The Army, "Phalangized" by the government, treated that poor population like the South African regime treats its blacks.

The Lebanese Forces (Christian militia) entered the suburb, and even reopened offices in Burj al-Barajinah and Harat Hurayk in particular, which were active under the Army's protection. I then attempted through peaceful means to warn the government against such infiltration. Above all we had to avoid a recurrence of the tragedy of An-Nab'ah, another poor Shi'ite district whose inhabitants were hounded out by the Phalangists in 1976. I organized meetings, held press conferences, and alerted opinion. It was all to no avail.

A Historic Crime

When, on Thursday 2 February, the church of Mar Mikhail held by the Lebanese Army was captured by our militia which I am willing to admit to avoid futile discussions I expected the Army to counterattack and recapture that position and I accepted that. That did not happen. Instead of fighting, the Army used 60 tanks to shell the southern suburb's densely populated districts for 18 hours.Some 170,000 inhabitants were forced to evacuate their homes. That is a historic crime.

Even after that blind shelling I did not call for the president's resignation. Addressing the Lebanese people, I said that our Maronite brothers ought to behave responsibly to keep the post of president, and I waited for Al-Jumayyil's radio message. But he did not utter one word of regret or even attempt to ascertain who was responsible. I concluded from that that such a president was unacceptable. To respect the law despite everything, I tried to go through Parliament, proposing that Al-Jumayyil's term of office be reduced from 6 to 2 years. In the absence of a high court, I wanted to force the deputies who elected him to give their verdict on his responsibility for that crime. Being neither a deputy myself, nor having influence in Parliament, I know I have fewer advantages there than President al-Jumayyil. However, I wanted the affair to come before a kind of court of history and I had no forum in which to do it.

Question: Why was the battle so fierce? Did you think an invasion of the southern suburb was being planned?

Answer: It is impossible to invade the southern suburb. The aim was to terrorize the inhabitants to force them to flee, and thus reduce the sociopolitical influence of that population which is hampering the government. They are opposed to confessionalism, the feudal system which represents them in Parliament, and the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of 17 May 1983, and are determined to liberate Lebanon, beginning with the south.

Question: Since President al-Jumayyil refuses to resign, what political solution do you foresee to the crisis?

Answer: We don't want to overthrow President al-Jumayyil but think he should resign. We are resorting to parliamentary procedure to adhere to constitutional methods. After all, the Maronites only have to chose another Maronite president. We are not asking that he be a Shi'ite. We aren't calling the 1943 national pact into question. Amin al-Jumayyil continues to behave like a member of the Phalange Party and forgetts that he is the president of all Lebanese.

Imam Khomeyni Is a Religious Authority

Question: So, there is a deadlock?

Answer: Yes, there is a deadlock. And it is impossible to break it without changing the president. We forwarded proposals at the Geneva conference, of which all are negotiable aside from two: The annulment of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and Lebanon's Arab identity. We refuse to allow Lebanon to become a Christian country, as some Phalangists or members of the Lebanese Front desire, but neither do we want it to become a Muslim country.

Question: What is the nature of your links with Imam Khomeyni?

Answer: The West cannot understand that Khomeyni should be a venerable man and a great religious authority for us without us necessarily owing him or Iran our political allegiance. It is rather like the relationship between a Catholic country and the Pope.

Question: Then what kind of relations do you have with Masawi, who leads the Shi'ite extremists in Ba'labakk?

Answer: None. Masawi was suspended from Amal during the Israeli invasion for kidnapping a Christian bishop. We have had no relations with him since then.

Question: How many fighters does Amal have, and what are its resources?

Answer: I do not have a single fighter, and at the same time, I have 1 million (footnote 1) (Lebanon's Shi'ite community numbers approximately 1 million people). Indeed the popular support within our community is so great that we find the fighters we need for each battle on the spot. We do not need to move troops. Our organization is subdivided into three sectors: Beirut, including the suburbs, the south, and Al-Biqa'. The number of fighters we have is a military secret (footnote 2) (for Beirut, the number is estimated at around 7,000 to 8,000 men).

Aside from that, the people are our source of finance: everyone gives what he can without obligation. As is well known, we do not receive anything from the Lebanon war's usual backers (Libya, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia).

We Value the New French Policy

Question: A large number of Lebanese, particularly Christians, attach great importance to your moderation, and to you as a person. However, aren't you afraid of being overtaken by more radical elements?

Answer: As an individual, I am of secondary importance. Amal is a doctrine, a political line which we implement. Imam Musa Sadr taught us fraternity among the communities, and we are determined to deal severely with all who perpetrate blackmail, abuses of power, and disturbances. We do not hide behind the customary excuses of "abuses" and "excesses." We have given orders to shoot on sight all elements not obeying orders. In fact,one of ourfighters had to be executed because he refused to obey a patrol and threatened it with a grenade.

Question: Mr Mitterrand has just paid tribute to your sense of responsibility. What do you think in general of French policy in Lebanon?

Answer: President Mitterrand's recent statements marked a new line in French policy regarding Lebanon. We view this new attitude with relief and hope, and we value it. Franco-Lebanese relations are preferential, be it at the official level or at the level of the two peoples. We have always hoped that France would play an independent role and act as a pioneer in the Lebanese crisis. To help a country you must help its people, the poor, the masses — in short, the majority. Relations among states must entail solving the problems and not complicating them. The Lebanese problem is now approaching its final solution; we must speed up the process.

Question: What do you think of the Multinational Force?

Answer: It has been overtaken by events. We must now try to have it replaced by the UN "blue helmets."

Question: In that case would you agree to the French soldiers remaining?

Answer: Why not? The aim is not so much to change the nationality of the men forming the Multinational Force as to change the spirit of its mission. As soldiers, the French soldiers have behaved impeccably, excluding the raid on Ba'labakk. The problem regarding the Multinational Force is a political one. The use of a UN force reduces the influence of nations' personal interests.

Fakhuri on French Plan, UN Consultations

NC210647 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent representative in the United Nations, has commented on the French plan to send international forces to Lebanon. He said that Lebanon's official stand is to welcome any step taken by the Security Council as long as it is in keeping with the grave situation in Lebanon. The international forces should be capable and effective enough to deply over all Lebanese territory.

Fakhuri did not indicate whether the UN Security Council would meet today or tomorrow. In his interview with Lebanese television, he said: We are still in the consultation and contacts phase. So far, no modified version of the French plan has been introduced.

Fakhuri added: I do not believe that the Security Council's positions are firm enought for us to form a clear idea about them. These positions may be clearly defined either later today or tomorrow morning — particularly the positions of the USSR and the United States.

Fakhuri said that he met with the chairman of the UN Security Council to exchange views about steps that could be taken. He added that the chairman of the Security Council is currently holding consultations with UN Security Council members in order to know their viewpoints. In view of these positions, the chairman will either decide to continue consultations or hold an unofficial session with all the members. If an agreement proves possible, an open official session will follow.

Pierre al-Jumayyil, Sham'un Speak After Meeting

NC221023 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The Lebanese Front has emphasized its cohesion and solidarity in confronting the fateful conditions through which the country is passing. After a Front meeting [former] President Camille Sham'un expressed hope that their confidence in the Lebanese Government will continue unimpaired. He added: We and all the Lebanese are prepared to be in utmost solidarity with the government regarding sound principles that would guarantee an end to the current situation.

Sham'un said the Lebanese Front has requested a meeting with President al-Jumayyil in order to avoid any ambiguities.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil stressed that President al-Jumayyil is doing all he can to safeguard Lebanon. He added: The homeland is now at a crossroads and the president is well aware of this. Shaykh Pierre called on all Lebanese to shoulder their national responsibilities.

Phalange Party Political Bureau Meets 20 Feb

NC201822 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The Phalange Party Political Bureau met today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and discussed the current situation and the results of the contacts taking place on the local and foreign levels. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said during the meeting that the wisdom of the Lebanese can foil any scheme which could harm Lebanon's formula or sovereignty. He added that the Christians do not want to make Lebanon just their national homeland but the homeland of all Lebanese.

Hilu Makes Statement on Moscow Mission

NC171252 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has met with former President Charles Hilu, who briefed the president on the results of his mission in Moscow. After the meeting Hilu said: I briefed the president on the mission entrusted to me in Moscow to convey the condolences of the president and Lebanon to the people, government, and party of the Soviet Union. The mission was also to convey good wishes to the new general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party that he may succeed in making an effective contribution to the cause of world peace, particularly in our beloved homeland, Lebanon.

He added: I conducted this mission with utmost care and loyalty in cooperation with the delegation's members, Muhammad al-Ba'labakki and Hikmat 'Awwad. The presence on this occasion of representatives of injured Lebanon was well received and manifested in the hospitality and attention accorded to us. We affirmed that the existence of this small peaceful homeland Lebanon is essential to the whole area and the world. We cited several reasons and outlined our issue at various levels, particularly to senior Foreign Ministry officials specialized in Lebanese and Middle Eastern affairs. These same officials escorted us throughout our stay in Moscow. Likewise, we explained this issue during a brief meeting with the deputy chairman of the Presidium, who welcomed us on our arrival and saw us off at the airport.

Hilu said: At my protocol meeting with leader Chernenko, I seized the opportunity to confine the interview to conveying, in addition to President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil's and the Lebanese people's feelings, a picture of the situation in Lebanon, and the understanding and peace this homeland deserves. I emphasized several times that Lebanon does not harbor enmity toward anyone and that antagonism is not in the tradition, capability, or interest of Lebanon. What justifies Lebanon's existence is that it is a symbol of stability and fraternal coexistence.

Qulaylat Meets With Soviet Ambassador 18 Feb

NC181546 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement—Al-Murabitun, has met with Soviet Ambassador Alexandr Soldatov. They reviewed the situation and its developments, especially the victories achieved by the nationalist and Islamic forces in the Lebanese arena, and specifically in Beirut.

After the meeting, Brother Qulaylat said: Our long meeting with the Soviet ambassador comes during the present momentous circumstances in the Middle East, and especially in the Lebanese arena, which are related to the international situation. This meeting acquires great significance at a time when the continuity and firmness of the stand of the Soviet Union — the ally, helper, and supporter of the Arab causes in general; of the Arab popular liberation forces and the Arab states, foremost of which is Syria; and of Lebanese progressive forces — are being emphasized.

Brother Qulaylat added: On this occasion, the responsibility for the continuing deterioration on our territory must be put on the U.S. role of flagrant interference in Lebanon's internal affairs, as well as on the continuation of the Zionist occupation of parts of our territory. Furthermore, every person concerned and every official in Lebanon on all levels must assume the responsibility of rejecting this U.S. presence in all its forms. Consequently, all the repercussions of this presence, of the Israeli occupation of the homeland in 1982, and of the occupation after that date must be rejected.

Brother Qulaylat concluded his statement by saying: It must be clear that, for the sake of finding any solution to end their tragedy, the Lebanese people have no choice but to adopt a general, decisive, national Islamic-Christian stand. On the basis of this stand, plans should be made for UN foces to play an effective role in achieving a cease-fire, establishing peace, helping to reunite Lebanon and to restore its independence and ending the Israeli occupation in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Christian Religious Leaders Issue Statement

NC181539 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1310 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Statement issued after spiritual meeting held by patriarchs in Bkirki on 18 February — read by Phalange Party radio's correspondent Joseph As-Sayfi]

[Text] At the invitation of His Eminence Cardinal Patriarch Mar Antonios Butrus Khuraysh, a meeting was held in Bkirki on Saturday, 18 February 1984. Attending the meeting were Their Beatitudes Patriarch Mar Ighnatios IV Hazim, for the Greek Orthodox sect; Karakin Sarkisan, for the Armenian Orthodox sect; Ignatios Antone Hayik, for the Syriac Catholic sect; Yuhanna Butrus Kasparian, for the Armenian Cathloic sect; and representative for His Beatitude Patriarch Maximus V Haimim, His Grace Yuhanna Mansur, for the Greek Catholic sect.

The conferees reviewed with pain the serious situation in Lebanon. The fighting in Beirut, the [southern] suburb, and the mountain has claimed a large number of victims and left devastation and death. The fighting has left the Lebanese people in indescribable pain and has forced them once again into destitution. The citizens are in a horrible panic. In this atmosphere rife with questions about their fate, the Lebanese must realize the state of disintegration they have reached and the collapse threatening their homeland. They will not find another homeland that will guarantee them the freedom, openness, and humane values they have long nurtured.

The salavation of the Lebanese is in their hands, and they will be saved only if they give up violence, close their ranks, and initiate a frank and sincere dialogue among themselves. The conferees are confident that the Lebanese people are brothers and that they share a common fate. The conferees appeal for sincere cooperation anong all Lebanese spiritual sects. They stress the need to quickly initiate a dialogue which will bring together the leaders of the Lebanese spiritual sects.

May God guide us all toward a common good.

In the meantime, it has been learned that spiritual meetings between Chrisitian and Islamic leaderships will soon take place during a large-scale spiritual conference. During this conference they will specify the principles for salvation under the legal government and its constitutional and political establishments. This upcoming conference was the basis for contacts that His Eminence Cardinal Khuraysh held with Mufti of the Republic His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid. We have learned that His Eminence Cardinal Khuraysh will contact His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din shortly regarding agreement on this expanded spiritual Christian-Islamic conference to be held early next week. The venue and time of the conference have not yet been specified.

Shi'ite Leader Urges General Mourning for Harb

NC211336 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Shaykh Muhammad Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has addressed an appeal to the Lebanese and to the southerners in particular. He has urged them to regard 23 February as a day of general mourning in all Lebanese areas on the occasion of the martyrdom of Jibshit Imam Shaykh Raghib Harb at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces.

American University To Continue Role in Beirut

NC202027 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] A delegation representing the American University in Lebanon has visited the house of Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt. The delegation was received by party deputy leader Muhsin Dallul, party Secretary General Fu'ad Salman, and leading party members.

During the meeting, the delegation communicated the decision made by the American University Board of Trustees in New York that the university will continue its educational role in Beirut and that all the university's colleges will reopen on 5 March. The delegation also thanked the PSP for its decision to protect the university so it can continue its educational role. The PSP emphasized its stand of preserving the educational [word indistinct] and the need to develop them. It also affirmed that it will continue to consolidate the democratic atmosphere currently prevailing in West Beirut.

Guarded Calm Prevails; Warplanes Overfly Beirut

NC220624 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Limited clashes occurred along the contact lines in Beirut and the southern suburb last night. The clashes later extended to the Suq al-Gharb axis where rocket fire was exchanged. Guarded calm began returning to all areas early in the morning.

Warplanes overflew Beirut this morning.

French Embassy Evacuated; Personnel Transferred

LD211521 Paris Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The French Embassy building, in the heart of Beirut, has been evacuated, with the documents and files taken to the ambassador's residence and to the French cultural center in Juhiyah. Personnel have also been transferred to these places and the embassy building is now almost empty. A convoy of five French military trucks filled with archives and furniture, with an escort of Shi'ite Amal militants, went through Beirut and crossed the demarcation line.

Liaison Body's Committee Holds Meeting

NC211243 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Today the political committee of the Higher Liaison Body held its regular meeting at the Presidential Palace. The meeting was attended by Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, who represented the president; the ambassadors of the United States, France, and Britain; the Italian charge d'affaires; and commanders of the Multinational Force, as well as the Lebanese officers group.

At the beginning of the meeting, Staff Colonel Victor Rahmah submitted reports on the security situation in various areas, concentrating on the situation in Beirut and the mountain. He pointed out that Israeli patrols have returned to Beirut's outskirts and that nobody has raised any objections. He also pointed out that Israeli forces have taken positions north of the Al-Awwali River. The reports refer to the Palestinian reinforcements between upper Al-Matn and the areas of Ash-Shuf, 'Alayh, and Beirut's southern suburb.

Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni spoke about the consultations being held at the Security Council regarding the dispatch of a UN force to Lebanon. He emphasized that while expressing its gratitude for and appreciation of the French initiative, Lebanon believes that the activities of the multinational force must include all Lebanese territory in a manner confirming the unity of the Lebanese homeland and the state's sovereignty over all its territory so that these forces' presence will not establish any partitionist reality if they deploy along the contact lines in Beirut.

Mufti Khalid Holds Talks on Developments

NC181223 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Within the framework of consultations and meetings which Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic, is holding on the current crisis, he received this morning Armenian Orthodox Bishop Aram Keshishyan, who was accompanied by a delegation from the bishopric. The talks dealt with the firm Islamic-Christian coexistence and with the cooperation of all Lebanese people to remove their homeland from the painful situation.

The mufti then met with former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, with whom he reviewed the current developments and means of achieving the country's salvation.

Mufti Khalid later met with a delegation of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party led by In'am Ra'd and with a delegation from the Al-Murabitun led by Nuhad Urfalli. The mufti also received Dr Yahya al-Ka'ki, chairman of the Independent Lebanon grouping; 'Umar Makkawi, commander of the Tariq al-Jadidah platoon; and Dr Husni Majdhub, representative of Oger Liban, with whom he discussed the security situation and various social services.

Philippines 'Honorary Consul' Killed 14 Feb

HK171408 Manila TIMES JOURNAL in English 17 Feb 84 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] The Philippine honorary consul general in Lebanon was ambushed and killed Feb. 14 as he and a companion were about to enter his house on Sta. Teresa street near Byblos some 30 kilometers north of Beirut.

The gunmen pumped 20 shots into the consul, Ghayth Khury, while leaving his companion unhurt.

Ironically, Khury, a Lebanese businessman engaged in real estate, had only recently telexed the Philippine ambassador to Jordan, Cesar Pastores, to assure him that all Filipino workers in Lebanon were safe and well, many of them leaving for abroad with their departing employers.

Khury was buried yesterday in Kartaba.

Motive for the killing was unknown, but an AFP report said he was a local Phalangist Party official.

Sources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it was not aware that Khury was a Phalangist. They said the Philippines does not favor nor identify with any of the contending factions in war-stricken Lebanon.

"If he is Phalangist, that is purely coincidental," one source said.

Lebanon's honorary consulate general in the Philippines sent a note verbale to the ministry informing it that Khury had been "treacherously shot dead."

The ministry, in its reply, expressed "profoundest sorrow" and said that the Philippines was "deeply indebted" to him for his unrelenting efforts on behalf of Filipinos working in Lebanon.

VOL Reports Sunni Organization Formed

NC171256 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that a security meeting was held today at 1000 at Al-Murabitun Headquarters in Corniche al-Mazra'ah. Attending the meeting were the Sunni officers in West Beirut, Ibrahim Qulaylat, and Ahmad al-Khatib. During the discussions, 1st Lieutenant Mustafa Hamdan, Ibrahim Qulaylat's nephew, was appointed commander of the organization which has been named the Free Officers Organization [tanzim ad-dubbat al-ahrar].

Our correspondent added that several Libyan officers who entered West Beirut within the past 48 hours also attended the meeting. They expressed their readiness to support the Sunni officers materially and militarily to confront and prevent the [Shi'ite] tide from spreading in Sunni-dominant West Beirut.

VOL Reports on Pro-Syrian Training Camps

NC191109 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Reports from the south indicate that training camps have been set up in the Sidon area to train Lebanese and Palestinian members of the pro-Syrian Popular Struggle Front. The training takes place under the supervision of an Iranian officer, Ahmed Ibrahim, and Shaykh Husayn Surur, one of the officials of the Jabal 'Amil establishment.

The same reports indicate that trained groups have already conducted military operations against the Israeli forces in the south and the Lebanese Army in West Beirut. A 125-member group from these training camps participated in military operations against the Lebanese Army in the suburb.

The reports also indicate that every Thursday the supervisory body of the camps' operations holds a meeting in the building of the Jabal 'Amil establishment. The members are organized into 12-man groups and their targets are determined under the supervision of Shaykh Surur.

Dissident Palestinians Deploy on Mountain Road

NC220749 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] As part of the Syrian-dissident Palestinian reinforcements in the mountain, some 600 members of the Palestine Liberation Army, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Struggle Front deployed last night on the road extending from Duhur ash-Shuwayr up to Hammana.

Meanwhile, reports indicate that a communist military official in Ta'lbaya commanding 20 gunmen, most of whom are from the Zu'aytir family, has deployed in specific positions on the mountain.

Mayors Call for Friendly Relations With Israel

NC211325 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Israeli officials headed by Moshe Sharon met today at Kafr Falus with the mukhtars and mayors of Jazzin, Az-Zahrani, Al-Kharrub region, and Ash-Shuf. The conferees cabled the Israeli head of state, the Israeli prime minister, and the defense minister requesting friendly relations with Israel and guaranteed protection for the Christians and announcing their opposition to plans aimed at partitioning Lebanon.

RFL: Abu Salih Says Palestinian Fighters Redeployed

NC172104 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Palestinian dissident official Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] disclosed tonight that the Palestinians have redeployed their gunmen in Lebanon. He said they obey the orders of the National Salvation Front, which moves them as it wishes because they have a common interest in confronting Israel.

Abu Salih stressed that the conflict with Israel is continuing wherever Israeli forces are located, because this is our duty and will continue to be our duty, as he put it.

PSP Radio on Redeployment of 43d Battalion

NC190921 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Major General Nadim al-Hakim issued the following statement today:

Now that the 43d Battalion has been redeployed near Beirut International Airport, all officers and NCO's of the battalion as well as those of the 4th Brigade can report to the battalion's command so that their rights can be safeguarded.

Al-Asad, Saudi Crown Prince Resume Talks

JN211941 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] At 2000 today, President Hafiz al-Asad resumed the talks he held yesterday with Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjiri, deputy commander of the Saudi national guard, attended the meeting. President Hafiz al-Asad and Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz later held a closed meeting during which their talks were completed. Talks dealt with the current situation in the region, the Lebanese situation and the new developments there, and issues of common interest.

Official Source on Talks

JN221052 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] An official source has stated the following:

His Highness Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz paid a fraternal, cordial visit to Syria on 20-21 February. He had two meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad during which they reviewed the Arab situation, particularly the Lebanese situation, and the suffering of this fraternal country due to the Israeli occupation, the national fragmentation, and the bloodshed that threaten its unity and independence. The viewpoints were identical regarding halting the fighting in order to enable the parties to work for achieving a national dialogue, given that dialogue is the only way that the Lebanese brothers can regain the unity and Arabism of their country, restore peace and security, and enable them to stand fast in the face of the Israeli aggression.

Both sides agreed to resume the joint Syrian, Saudi Arabian efforts to forge ahead with the march of peace, security, and national reconciliation in order to achieve what the Lebanese in particular, and the Arab nation in general, aspire for. President al-Asad expressed thanks for the efforts being exerted by Saudi Arabia to help restore peace, security, and tranquillity to Lebanon in a manner that would achieve and safeguard its national unity. Prince 'Abdallah praised Syria's pan-Arab role in Lebanon.

Saudi Crown Prince Meets PNC Chairman

LD211333 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 21 Feb (SPA) — At 1230 today His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander of the National Guard, received Kalid al-Fahum, president of the PNC, at his place of residence in Damascus. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjir, assistant deputy commander of the National Guard, and the Kingdom's ambassador to Syria 'Abdallah al-Fadhl.

Damascus Cites Lebanese Radio on Israeli Raids

JN211303 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Lebanon — At 0900 today, the Phalangist army resumed its heavy artillery shelling of the nationalist forces' positions, Ra's al-Jabal, and 'Alayh. The Voice of the Mountain said that at 1030 today Israeli warplanes overflew the mountain and Al-Biqa' areas and raided the 'Ayn al-Jadidah area, drawing antiaircraft fire. Beirut radio said that last night and this morning U.S. warplanes carried out intensive sorties over the capital and the mountain area. On the security level, reports say that guarded calm still prevails in the capital and the mountain area, with intermittent explosions. Last night strong battles raged at the contact lines of Beirut between the nationalist forces and the Phalangist army. Today's news reports say that during the last 2 days the Zionist invasion forces intensified their concentrations in the area extending from the Ad-Damur line to the Al-Awwali River in the Al-Kharrub region. The Phalangist radio said Israeli armored units took up positions in this area yesterday afternoon.

Radio Cites Beirut Radio, REUTER on Israeli Moves

JN220740 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut radio has said that 70 Israeli armored vehicles participated in the Israeli operation north of the Al-Awwali River. REUTER cited Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens as saying yesterday that the Israeli Forces have advanced 12 km north of the Al-Awwali River during the last 24 hours. Eyewitnesses have said that 16 Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers took up positions for more than 6 hours in the areas north of the Al-Awwali at the entrance to Ad-Damur. The eyewitnesses said that the Israeli Forces are establishing permanent positions. An Israeli military spokesman in southern Lebanon admitted this, saying that the presence of these forces will continue until the situation becomes clear.

Al-Asad Receives U.S. Senate Delegation 21 Feb

JN211250 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received a U.S. Senate delegation led by Senator John Tower, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

DPRK Ambassador Meets Ba'th Official 21 Feb

JN211404 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1321 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 21 Feb (SANA) — Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command, received DPRK Ambassador in Damascus Yi Hong-yop here today. During the meeting, the DPRK ambassador delivered a message for the Ba'th Party National Command from the Korean Workers' Party dealing with the tense situation in the Korean Peninsula as a result of the military maneuvers that the United States is holding in the region. Comrade Haydar expressed the solidarity of the Syrian people and party with the friendly Korean people's struggle to realize peaceful unity for the Korean homeland [words indistinct].

Meets Assembly Speaker

JN211949 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1905 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 21 Feb (SANA) — During his meeting today with Mahmud az-Zu'bi, speaker of the Peoples Assembly, DPRK Ambassador in Damascus Yi Hong-Yup stressed the appreciation and support of his country for Syria's struggles and courageous stands, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, in opposing the imperialist and Zionist plans and threats in this region. The DPRK ambassador also delivered a message of solidarity to the speaker from Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly in Korea. The message stresses the relations of solidarity and cooperation between the two countries. It also calls for the withdrawing all of the aggressors from occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinian people.

The ambassador conveyed an initation from Yang Hyong-sop to Az-zu'bi to visit the DPRK at the head of a delegation from the Syrian Peoples Assembly. This was accepted with thanks by the speaker, who also expressed Syria's appreciation of the DPRK's stands in support of the just Arab cause. The speaker also referred to the Syrian-Korean joint struggle against imperialism, stressing the need to deepen the existing relations between the two countries in order to serve the two friendly peoples.

Commentary Views Recent Victories in Lebanon

JN171934 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Palestine Broadcast: From "Talk of the Return" program]

[Text] The nationalist forces' recent victories in the Lebanese arena, as witnessed by their taking control of the Ash-Shahhar area, Khaldah, Ad-Damur, and western Beirut, have crystallized and clarified the political formula in Lebanon on the basis that any settlement should take into account the important, decisive military developments that take place in the battlefield. The failure of the principle of a military solution, to which the factional regime adhered, and the positive results that the recent battles achieved in the interest of the Lebanese people and their nationalist and progressive forces should be main factors in any political settlement of the Lebanese crisis. Any sound solution to the problem that Lebanon is experiencing should come from the region and from the pan-Arab and security interests of the Arab nation rather than from any imperialist, Zionist, or reactionary side hostile to the aspirations of the Lebanese people and their nationalist and progressive forces.

The recent events that the Lebanese arena witnessed, especially the military and political events, have proved the soundness of this trend. The nationalist and progressive forces, which achieved real and clear progress on the battlefield against the factional army and the Phalangist militias, have emphasized adherence to the conditions that they had placed for resolving the Lebanese problem and for beginning national reconciliation. These conditions include the cancellation of the 17 May agreement and undertaking social, political, and constitutional reforms that will meet the aspirations of the unified Lebanese people who have fateful ties to their Arab nation.

The Lebanese regime, the United States, and Israel do not conceal their increasing concern over the effects of the victories that the nationalist forces have recently achieved. This, of course, means that these sides will not simply submit to these victories. It is certain that they will study the practical steps that will enable them to foil these victories, although these sides implicitly recognize that what is based on right is always sound.

The proposals concerning the 17 May agreement and the social, constitutional, and political reforms are certainly the Lebanese nationalist and progressive forces' rights, which these forces are strongly and firmly defending. The events that the Lebanese arena is witnessing have proved that the aim of the majority of the Lebanese people is represented by rejecting the political system, which is based on political factionalism and which bases its existence on the enemies of Lebanon and the Arab nation, foremost of which are the Zionists and the U.S. imperialists.

The pro-U.S. forces in the Lebanese arena no longer have any important effect and will not be able to play any role in supporting U.S. policy. The majority of the Lebanese people and the Arab masses reject these forces. The recent events that took place in Beirut, the suburbs, and the mountain area have proved that Al-Jumayyil's regime is isolated in Lebanon and in the Arab arena. They also emphasize that the Lebanese people, represented by their nationalist and progressive forces, insist on liberating Lebanon from this Phalangist regime as well as from the U.S. and Zionist occupation.

A Lebanon unified in terms of both land and people in which every Lebanese has equal duties and rights is the new Lebanon to which and for which the Lebanese nationalist and progressive forces aspire and struggle. The majority of the Lebanese people, who sacrificed and continue to sacrifice for an independent, homeland united in land and people also supports these nationalist and progressive forces.

Damascus Reports PLO Official's Comments on Syria

JN211831 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Answering questions from reporters, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman for the PLO Executive Committee and head of the pan-Arab relations department, praised the Syrian, nationalist Lebanese, and Palestinian triangle of steadfastness. He stressed that after the battle of Beirut and its southern suburb, the Amal Movement and the National Salvation Front have nearly attained total control over Lebanon.

Abu Mayzar denied rumors about attempts to form a new PLO. He described this as dreams and illusions of those who are afraid of the future. He stressed that the PLO was one of the most important achievements of the Palestinian people and that it derives its identity from being a national liberation movement against imperialism and Zionism. He said that the Soviet Union firmly supports Arab rights, and that it has acted with conviction in order to foil plots against the Arab nation.

Abu Mayzar expressed his confidence that the U.S. is unable to carry out its plans in the region. He explained that on the Egyptian level it is necessary to prepare the people and the army for the battle of liberating Arab and Egyptian soil; to return to the unity of conflict with Zionism and to the unity of the Arab cause, to abrogate the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and the Camp David agreements; to stop peddling the U.S. plans, which are based on confiscating the Palestinian people's rights for the 1948 refugees to return and on denying Palestinian people the right of self-determination and of establishing an independent state on their national soil.

Sources Deny 20 Feb IDF Action in West Beirut

TA211335 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Sources in Israel firmly deny that IDF units patrolled in the southern outskirts of West Beirut and acted against terrorist groups on 20 February. According to the sources, the Christian radio stations also broadcast false reports on Israeli Navy boats shelling terrorist targets in West Beirut and the hills controlling the entrance to the city. The Israeli sources denied the reports that IDF tanks and troops landed in West Beirut, and said that perhaps these are intentionally misleading reports.

IDF Beirut Positions Denied

TA211520 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] A REUTER correspondent reported today that the IDF is 20 km south of Beirut. Security forces have expressed amazement at the report, as they told our military correspondent Doron Rosenblum, who also reports on the Air Force attack:

[Rosenblum] Security sources, as we have just heard, have expressed amazement at the report filed by REUTER on IDF activity deep inside Lebanon, a report allegedly based on information provided by an Israeli military spokesman, whose name has remained undisclosed. In reply to a question, the IDF spokesman said that the IDF is involved in vast activity, including patrols and other routine activities north of the Al-Awwali, and has been doing this for a long time now, adding that he had no intention of referring to individual patrols. The patrols [siyurim ufatrolim] are conducted for the purpose of securing our forces, maintaining close contacts with the local population adjacent to the Al-Awwali, and not the aim of capturing territory, the IDF spokesman clarified. The style and nature of our forces' activity change according to circumstances and developments as do the IDF's operational requirements for each particular day.

As for the Air Force attack this morning, the planes attacked two areas: the first, near the Beirut-Damascus highway and the other in Bhamdun, which is located some 15 km southeast of Beirut. [5-second break in transmission]

The Air Force planes attacked two areas: One in 'Ayn al-Jadidah, the other near Bhamdun — where four construction sites were attacked and completely destroyed. That is all.

Patrol Units Return From Mission North of Al-Awwali

TA211730 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Right now there are no more IDF forces north of the Al-Awwali. The IDF unit that crossed the river returned this afternoon to its base safely. Israeli sources have said that it is hard to understand the hysterical reports in the Lebanese media alleging that the IDF landed forces from the sea and introduced tanks into West Beirut. They emphasize that the reports are false. Here is a report by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal:

[Tal] An IDF unit has been operating over the past 24 hours near the coastal road some 5 km north of the Al-Awwali bridge as well as in the Kharrub region, east of the Lebanese coastal road, not far from the Al-Awwali. There are villages in that area, mainly along the hilly roads — such as Bikfayya, As-Za'ruriyah, Shihin, and 'Anut. The IDF regularly patrols there, in order to investigate what is happening, talk to the local inhabitants, and make sure that the terrorists are not returning.

In earlier patrols, too, the IDF never encountered terrorists or fighting forces. Whenever such a patrol takes place, it is usually made up of armored personnel carriers and tanks as well, and over the past few months many such patrols were made. The soldiers cross the bridges in broad daylight, seen by all, and the armored behicles bear Israeli flags. On the way, the soldiers converse with the local inhabitants and their leaders, settle problems, and renew the demand [derisha] and understanding that they prevent terrorists from entering the area evacuated by the IDF.

To repeat, right now there are no more IDF units north of the Al-Awwali, and obviously no fixed strongholds [ma'ahazim] have been established. Security sources today expressed amazement at a REUTER report on this, allegedly quoting an Israeli military spokesman. The IDF told us, in reply to a question, that the patrols were intended to maintain contact with the inhabitants residing north of the Al-Awwali rather than to capture the area. The nature and activity of the units will change in accordance with the circumstances and developments in the area in question, as well as in accordance with the IDF's operational requirements. He said at issue is vast activity consisting of routine patrols, but the spokesman refrained from addressing himself to reports of individual patrols.

Ministers Express Reservations About IDF Activity

TA220528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Ministers in the government have reservations about the IDF activity north of the Al-Awwali, even after the explanations given yesterday by Defense Minister Moshe Arens about the purpose of this activity. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer was told that the ministers are afraid that such activity is meant to get Israel entangled and to drag it into unwanted involvement. In a talk with our correspondent, a top minister said last night: "I do not understand the purpose of these actions, and I do not agree withthem." Our correspondent has learned that among those who have reservations about the IDF activity are Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, and the Ministers Aharon Uzan and Yitzhaq Moda'i. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who is in Europe, was briefed on the military activity in Lebanon and gave his complete agreement to it.

Refugees Report Druze Activity in Lebanon Villages

TA211711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Refugees who arrived in southern Lebanon today have reported that the Druze are currently fortifying their positions in the Christian villages they captured in the northeastern part of the Ash-Shuf mountains. This work is being done with the help of trucks loaded with engineering equipment and some of the refugees have said that they are Syrian Army trucks.

They also said the Druze have planted landmines on the outskirts of those villages to forestall a possible attack by the Christians or the Lebanese Army.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the flow of refugees to southern Lebanon has nearly stopped. Several hundred refugees have taken advantage of the lull in the fighting to return to their villages to salvage their property.

Druze Shelling Reported

TA221053 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1045 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Christian refugees who arrived this afternoon in southern Lebanon said that for 3 hours early this morning the Druze shelled Christian villages about 3 to 5 km north of the Al-Awwali. The refugees told our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, that the Druze bombardment ended after an IDF aid unit intervened.

Christians Appeal for IDF Presence in Al-Kharrub

TA212012 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the council of Christian villages in the Al-Kharrub area has appealed to the IDF with a request that its units remain in the area to guarantee the safety of the Christians.

Sources: 'No Proof' of Terrorists in West Beirut

TA220843 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Israeli sources say there is no proof that terrorist organizations of the Rejection Front, headed by PLO rebels, are going to renew their activity in West Beirut. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that the Shi'ite militias and the people of the Druze leader Junblatt, have lately foiled a number of attempts by the terrorists to reopen their offices in West Beirut. However, sources in Israel assess that the terrorists have lately succeeded in infiltrating in very small numbers into West Beirut. It appears that various elements in the Lebanese Christian camp are spreading tendentious reports on the terrorist presence strengthening in the city, hoping this would lead Israel into taking military action against them.

Soldiers, Refugees Return to Beirut Areas

TA212018 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2005 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Southern Lebanon, 21 Feb (ITIM) — Dozens of Lebanese Army soldiers today responded to the demand issued by the Lebanese Administration and have returned to their units in Beirut. They returned to Beirut by ships from Sidon. The IDF, however, believes they have done so only to get their monthly paycheck, and once they have received that they will return to Sidon.

Also, hundreds of refugees who arrived last week in Sidon have begun returning to Beirut and the regional villages. Hundreds of people crossed the Al-Awwali River bridges today, too, on their way to Beirut.

Arens Confirms IDF Operated North of Al-Awwali River

TA211510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The defense minister has confirmed that an IDF force operated north of the Al-Awwali River in the past 24 hours. According to him, this force was larger than other forces which have recently operated north of the Al-Awwali River. The force is now making its way to the south.

Our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli reports that in a meeting with members of the Knesset Likud faction, Minister Arens noted thaton the average five patrols were conducted north of the Al-Awwali River each month and that some 30 patrols have been conducted so far. The defense minister added that the IDF force patrolled several kilometers north of the Al-Awwali River and checked whether there were terrorists in the area. This activity was designed to prove that Israel has not abandoned the areas.

Interviewed by our correspondent Arye Golan, Minister Arens emphasized that the IDF activity is not designed to save the Al-Jumayyil regime. The IDF is operating in order to defend Israel's interests. The activity north of the Al-Awwali River has proved itself and there have not been any attacks against our forces on this line so far. According to Arens, the patrols are designed to make plain that Israel has an interest in what is happening north of the Al-Awwali River. Israel does not want the terrorists to resettle in the areas it has vacated.

The defense minister disclosed that we have reached an understanding with the Druze to the effect that the terrorists will not return to the area. In order to ensure that they do not return, the IDF is attacking terrorist targets on land and in the air.

More on Arens Meeting

TA211805 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The defense minister today met with the members of the Likud Knesset members and briefed them on Israel's defense policy. He condemned the demand [derisha] to leave Lebanon at once. If Israel took this advice, the defense minister said, the northern settlements would be riddled with Katyushas. Here is a report on the meeting by our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz:

[Zissowitz] The defense minister today argued vociferously with those whom he termed has-beens: major generals, chiefs of staff, and one prime minister who have recently urged the withdrawal of the IDF from Lebanon. This is stupid, Arens said, and bowing to this demand [tevi'a] will merely cause serious damage to the northern settlements. Arens similarly came out against the claims that the continued stay in Lebanon is undermining the morale of the regular and reserve servicemen. It is a fact, he countered, that the number of volunteers to the specialized units is greater than the demand. The number of our casualties in Lebanon is smaller than the number of casualties the IDF suffered when it was deployed along the Suez Canal, which is why the defense minister believes there is no reason why we should not continue to remain, persevere.

Arens attacked television correspondents, who he believes purposely attempt to prove that the soldiers' morale is low and show that they are suffering many casualties. At this point Arens met with enthusiastic support among all the Likud groups. Roni Milo charged television with highlighting views opposing the continued stay in Lebanon, saying that the reporters want to interview Minister Mordekhay Tzipori, who expressed pessimistic views about the continued stay in Lebanon. He demanded that only the defense minister speak in public about security matters. He was seconded by Beni Shalita, who said that the serious problem is at home and it is necessary to take action against the instigators. He also attacked the merry wives of Rehavya [affluent Jerusalem neighborhood], members of the organization called Mothers Against Silence.

MK Me'ir Kohen-Avidov raised an idea to offer Syria a peace pact, which would be based on restoring Lebanon's sovereignty to all of its territory, in return for the annexation of the Golan to Israel, with Syria joining the Camp David accords.

One who did not toe the party line was MK 'Aqiva Nof, who dared to say: We did not achieve all the objectives we had set out to gain. It is necessary to set up a government-IDF think tank that will plan the next steps without considering prestige. This roused the anger of Beni Shalita, who complained that fellow members were beginning to raise questions about the justification of the war. Nof, however, remained alone, and the Likud faction rallied round Arens's position, that we should not rush to leave Lebanon. It showed even greater unanimity over the opinion that television is misrepresenting reality.

Arens Interviewed on Patrols

TA211746 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The defense minister said today that the IDF activity north f the Al-Awwali River is not designed to protect Amin al-umayyil's regime but rather to prevent terrorists from settling n the areas we have vacated. We are not allies of Al-Jumayyil, nd the Lebanese Government is also not maintaining diplomatic elations with us, the defense minister told Arye Golan this vening. We are operating to protect our interests and the lives f our soldiers.

egin recording] [Arens] This activity is actually an extension of e policy we have been conducting for a few months, actually ce we left the Ash-Shuf area, to the effect that we are letting l the parties in the field understand that whatever happens yond our lines, north of the Al-Awwali, also interests us. We not want terrorists to resettle in these areas and to again begin attacking the IDF from there. We have held contacts and we have also reached some understandings with the Druze. We urged them to prevent terrorists from entering these areas. In order to make sure this definitely does not happen and to demonstrate our determination, we have for months also attacked terrorist targets — whenever such targets are discovered — and sent mechanized patrols into the field. This policy has so far proven itself. In fact, there have been no attacks against the IDF soldiers on the Al-Awwali line from the area north of it.

[Golan] Is this activity only aimed at the terrorists? Is there not a purpose or intention to protect Al-Jumayyil's regime?

[Arens] No, we are not allies of Al-Jumayyil. As you know, Lebanon does not even maintain diplomatic relations with Israel. We are protecting our interests; we are trying the best we can to protect the lives of our soldiers. The Air Force and the ground forces operations north of the Al-Awwali have proven effective so far.

[Golan] Mr Defense Minister, despite what is happening to Al-Jumayyil's regime, are we still continuing to prepare for a redeployment of the IDF farther south, nearer the Israeli border?

[Arens] At this stage, we are not changing our current deployment. I think that the current situation calls for some introspection on our part every month in order to update the picture and make new assessments because our goal is to ensure peace for the Galilee and the well-being of the Galilee inhabitants at a minimum cost. We keep examining our actions, whether we are really doing this in the most effective way. The fact that our current deployment is the way it is shows that the current assessment of the situation is that this is the most effective way.

[Golan] Several ministers argue that in view of what is emerging now in Lebanon we will remain in Lebanon for many years. Do you subscribe to this opinion?

[Arens] I hope this is not the case. I think that no Israeli or, perhaps nobody, can remain indifferent in the face of the horrible tragedy that is currently afflicting Lebanon, of the people who are being killed, wounded, or are fleeing from there. This is my hope and I expect this will not be the fate of Lebanon forever. We also want a government to be established in Lebanon, capable of undertaking the commitment to prevent the infiltration of terrorists and to prevent terrorist operations from Lebanon against Israel. However, as long as this is not the case — and for the time being, this is not the case — there is actually no alternative other than protecting ourselves with the help of the IDF.

[Golan] Professor Arens, with your permisison I will ask you the last question on a more political issue. What is your reaction to reports coming from Washington about an attempt to form a Palestinian delegation, about negotiations held with the PLO for many months?

[Arens] I do not think there is room for a reaction to these reports as long as we have not received — if we receive at all — an official appeal from the U.S. Government. Today this remains a rumor.

[Golan] What appeal are you referring to?

[Arens] No, what I am saying applies only in the event there is such an appeal. I understand that you are talking about the possibility that the United States may ask us to enter these or other contacts. To the best of my knowledge, such an appeal has not been made. I must also say that I am doubtful that such an appeal will be made.

[Golan] Mr Defense Minister, I thank you very much. [end recording]

Denies Permanent Positions

TA211836 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Alan Ben-'Ami on 21 February; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Professor Arens, two air strikes on terrorist targets in Lebanon this week, a number of large armored Israeli patrols across the Al-Awwali River. There has been a lot of speculation of what's behind all this, what in fact is the aim?

[Arens] Well, I think we have made it clear, what's behind it and there is no room for any doubt. We do not want PLO terrorists establishing themselves again in areas north of the Al-Awwali River and we have made that quite clear. We made that clear to the Druze and we have demanded of them to mmake sure that they keep them out. The situation in Lebanon this past week has been kind of fluid and we have seen a tendency on the part of PLO terrorists to come down below to the Ad-Damur River and we just want to be very sure that that doesn't happen.

[Ben-'Ami] There was a report that Israel has set up some fixed positions north of the Al-Awwali River.

[Arens] No, we have no fixed positions north of the Al-Awwali River.

[Ben-'Ami] Is any of the activity linked to what's happening in and around Beirut, any attempt to ease some of the pressure on the pro-Al-Jumayyil forces?

[Arens] Our activity is directed solely at meeting our aims and our interests and that, in that area, is keeping the PLO terrorists out and that's the purpose of our activity.

[Ben-'Ami] What about the effect of events on the possible redeployment of Israeli troops in southern Lebanon? There has been a lot of talk about a further withdrawal. Where does it stand at the moment?

[Arens] No, at the moment we are not withdrawing; we are staying right where we are and we will continue to appraise our position in order to make sure that we meet our most important objective and that is assuring the security of the population in the Galilee at the minimum cost for Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] You said there has been a tendency noted for some terrorist infiltrations south of Ad-Damur. What does this mean with regard to the promises and guarantees that we received from the Druze community, that they would keep the terrorists out? Do you see this promise being acted on now?

[Arens] Well, what we have found is that in those areas of the Ash-Shuf where the Druze have not been engaged in any fighting they have been very effective in keeping the terrorists out and there are no terrorists there. But, on the other hand, wherever the Druze militia has been involved in fighting they accepted the help of the PLO. It is our understanding that it is their intention, once the Druze have achieved their military objectives, to get rid of the PLO and we just want to give them a little encouragement.

[Ben-'Ami] And these patrols and air strikes will continue?

[Arens] These patrols and air strikes will continue as long as we are concerned about the presence of terrorists in the area.

Kimche Interviewed by Japanese Television on Lebanon

OW161445 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 1207 GMT16 Feb 84

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche by NHK anchorman Taro Kimura at the Israeli Embassy in Tokyo on 16 February — recorded in English with Japanese subtitles]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Kimura] Mr Director General, we received a report from Lebanon that President al-Jumayyil may abrogate the treaty with Israel. It is your treaty, and can you tell us if there is any clause to justify such an abrogation by one party?

[Kimche] No, there isn't such a clause, and you may remember that the Lebanese parliament overwhelmingly approved this agreement. I would say that the interesting fact about the agreement is that, despite tremendous pressure — including open threats — by the Syrians to President al-Jumayyil, he has until now withstood these threats. He has withstood this pressure, and the reason is that the Lebanese see this agreement as a proof of their own independence. If they give in to this Syrian pressure, it will be considered by very many as the end of true Lebanese independence. And this is the reason they are so reluctant — they have been so reluctant to surrender to Syrian pressure on this point.

[Kimura] Whether it is justifiable or not, if they abrogate, Israel will lose, let's say, in a way, a justification of being in Lebanon. Am I correct to say this?

[Kimche] Well, not quite. When we signed this agreement, we agreed to withdraw our troops from Lebanon — I mean it has been called a troop withdrawal agreement. And we guaranteed, we said we would withdraw within 3 months, provided that this agreement is implemented, meaning also that the Syrians also agree to withdraw. They had said, the Syrians had said all along to the Americans that they would withdraw if we would agree to as well. Now, if this agreement is abrogated, we will feel ourselves free to decide what is best for the security of our own citizens in the south, which means that we will have to take necessary measures in the south.

[Kimura] What is — if you have this free hand, what is your necessary measure? What is it going to be? Like what would you like to see in Lebanon?

[Kimche] What we would like to see in Lebanon is the restoration of full independence and sovereignty over the entire territory of Lebanon by the Lebanese Government. In other words, we would like to withdraw from Lebanon as soon as absolutely possible, but we can only do that if there is again stability in Lebanon, if there will not be any return of terrorists to Lebanon, and if the central government can have its full authority over all the territory of Lebanon. Now this is obviously not going to be the case if this agreement will be abrogated, because this will mean Syrian domination, and this will mean perhaps the terrorists coming back. So, therefore, we shall have to take steps in south Lebanon to prevent them coming into that area and using it again as a base for agression against us.

[Kimura] So, it sounds like as if you are saying that Israel is going to be there — I mean for quite a while. Do you say that it is going to be a de facto fact that Lebanon will be divided into, let's say, four pieces: one occupied by Syrians, one by Israeli, one the Muslim sector, and Christian sector? Will it be like this?

[Kimche] Well, I hope you are wrong because, as I said, we would like to see a strong central government ruling over the whole of Lebanon. We also very much want to withdraw from Lebanon. When... when... [Kimchi changes thought] I think you are right possibly in that there will be a long Syrian stay and that there will be a division between Muslim and Christian sectors. It is a very unfortunate fact for Lebanon. As for ourselves, when I say defense measures, security measures in the south, this can also possibly be, by having local forces in the south, being sure that there will not be any entry of terrorists — foreign terrorists, PLO terrorists — coming into the area. We on our side do want to leave and we do want to have a minimum amount of troops in the south. And it depends on whether the Lebanese themselves can maintain their — the security in the area, to how long we shall have to stay.

[Kimura] Talking about the southern part of Lebanon, can you guarantee that there is not going to be any settlement over there — I mean Israeli settlement over there?

[Kimche] Oh, yes, we can guarantee that quite fully. We have no intentions of staying in Lebanon. We have no interest in staying in Lebanon. All we want is to see a peaceful Lebanon and we want to live in peace with that country. The agreement that we had signed was, in effect, a de facto peace agreement, because the first article said the state of war between our two countries is terminated. That is what we want. [end recording]

[Kimura] This is how the interview went. I have a gloomy divided into four sectors: the Israeli-occupied sector, the Syrian-occupied sector, and the Christian and Muslim sectors.

Vice Foreign Minister [as heard] Kimche further went on to say that he hopes the new Soviet administration will positively grapple with a Middle East peace, but he was rather skeptical of the French-proposed dispatch of UN peace supervisory forces, including Soviet troops.

Touching on Israeli relations with Japan, he also said that Israel hopes to further deepen mutual understanding with Japan because the two countries have an ancient history and a free system in common. He then asked me to be sure and not cut off this portion of the videotape. But, because of the time limit, I had to convey it through my own words.

Kimche Returns From Trip

TA220728 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Feb 84 p 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] The establishment in Japan this month of an Israel-Japan Parliamentary Friendship League, with some 55 Diet Members as founder-signatories, is a significant step in relations between the two countries, according to David Kimche, director general of the Foreign Ministry, who attended the founding ceremony.

Kimche returned home this week from an extensive trip to Australia and Southeast Asia.

He said the league is the first pro-Israel group of this kind in Tokyo. Among the Diet members who support it are former ministers and prominent parliamentarians.

Kimche said its establishment had been in large measure the achievement of Israel's ambassador to Tokyo, Amnon Ben-Yohanan.

Kimche held talks with the vice minister of foreign affairs, who visited Israel last year. He also met briefly with Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, a conversation which Israeli sources describe as positive.

Japan has always kept its relations with Israel low-key, and contacts on this level have been rare. Israeli officials are hoping a high-level dialogue will continue.

In Singapore, traditionally a warm friend of Israel, Kimche was received by the Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew, the defence minister, foreign minister, education minister and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Kimche said yesterday he feels there is insufficient awareness, especially in the business community here, of potential markets for Israeli exports in Southeast Asia.

While in Singapore, Kimche chaired a conference of Israeli ambassadors in Thailand, the Philippines, Nepal, New Zealand and the consul in Bombay.

Foreign Ministry sources said Kimche's swing through Southeast Asia had "not cost the taxpayer a penny," since he had worked it into a visit to Australia at the invitation of the Young Presidents Organization [YPO]. The director general's trip, with his wife, had been criticized in some quarters as expensive and expendable.

Kimche delivered three lectures to the YPO forum, which comprises presidents of major companies the world over in the 40-50 age bracket. Other lecturers at the meeting in Melbourne included ex-President Jummy Carter and U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick.

Minister Burg on Possible 'De Facto Partition'

TA200810 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by Haim Shapira]

[Text] Interior Minister Yosef Burg suggested last night that one of the probable outcomes in Lebanon might be a de facto partition of that country.

Speaking in Jerusalem to the Israel Chapter of the Rabbinical Council of America, Burg mentioned the possibility, and then, suggesting this was a slip of the tongue, added, "I don't want to be quoted by any newspapers." But he continued to enlarge upon the idea of de facto partition, noting that there would be a "small enclave around Beirut," the Syrian-controlled region and another under Israeli control.

As for the Israeli occupation, he suggested it would continue "until we can ensure the security of our northern border," intimating that he could see no end in sight to this occupation.

MK Ben-Elisar Interviewed on Lebanon 20 Feb

TA201300 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Interview with the chairman of Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, MK Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, by Arye Golan, in Knesset radio studio]

[Excerpts] [Golan] We would like to examine with you the statement by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz which could be interpreted to indicate that Israel is to blame for the deterioration in Lebanon, as a result of the withdrawal of the IDF forces to the Al-Awwali line. I would first like to ask you whether what was reported at the time as lack of coordination between Israel and the United States is now turning into mutual accusations, this time being the U.S.'s turn to point an accusatory finger at us?

[Ben-Elisar] I do not think there was a lack of coordination between Israel and the United States regarding everything pertaining to the IDF's withdrawal from Ash-Shuf. On the contrary, this matter was coordinated in every sense of the word. The Americans had even appealed to us on a number of occasions to postpone the withdrawal, which we complied with. Later, after repeated delays, we informed the Americans of the date of the evacuation and implemented the redeployment. The Americans were in the picture all along. I must say indeed that this proposal or idea in the interview granted by the secretary of state to Joseph Kraft — in which he in fact says that the IDF withdrawal from Ash-Shuf convinced Al-Asad and the Syrinas that Israel would anyway withdraw, even if they do not do a thing, in other words, that the State of Israel is sufficiently vulnerable to want to withdraw without the Syrians having to sacrifice or concede anything and thus the State of Israel caused the collapse of U.S. policy in Lebanon, as it were. [Sentence as heard]

[Golan] Do you agree with Secretary Shultz on this issue? After all you too were opposed to the exit from Ash-Shuf.

[Ben-Elisar] It is true that I was opposed to this. However, it is inconceivable we did this without any coordination with the Americans. It is surely unthinkable that today the Americans, on such a level indeed as the secretary of state, would put the blame on us for what happened to U.S. policy. I would simply expect the Americans to be very modest now, after making the decision they made on evacuating their Marines from Beirut. Moreover, I would expect the top superpower to know how to adapt to the new situation that developed after the IDF left the Ash-Shuf region.

[Golan] Until when do we have to stay in Lebanon, as far as you are concerned? I understand that the situation is deteriorating as it becomes clearer to us that the goal of driving the terrorists away has not been achieved, specifically, that there are terrorists in the Ad-Damur region again. How long will we be able to or need to remain there until this goal is achieved?

[Ben-Elisar] The Americans may be able to afford to pull the Marines out of Beirut, in fact demonstrating the seriousness of the bankruptcy of their military and strategic policy, but we cannot afford this. The Americans will thus seriously damage their reputation, and to the best of our understanding, this will also lead to far-reaching results from the viewpoint of U.S. policy in the entire region — not only in Lebanon and vis-a-vis Syria — since everyone will begin to doubt the ability, will and determination of the United States. However, we cannot afford this since we live here. As far as we are concerned this will mean much more than bankruptcy, especially when we are talking of an enemy such as Syria. Therefore, when the question of how long we will remain in Lebanon is asked, I must reply that we should remain until that date when we are convinced that the security of the State of Israel is guaranteed without our presence in Lebanon. I do not want to remain in Lebanon. I too want to get out of there, but I would not want us to entertain illusions. Therefore, I prefer that we conduct ourselves soberly and say: Lebanon does not exist; eveyone there is killing everyone else; Syria is daily strengthening its status in Lebanon; so let us remain and guard that part which we control.

[Golan] Do you mean we should do so until 1990, as Minister Tzipori said, or beyond this?

[Ben-Elisar] I prefer not to quote dates or years. I prefer to speak of a situation. As long as we think we have no choice, from the point of view of Israel's security, we should be present in Lebanon.

[Golan] Dr Ben-Elisar, a question on another point here. Was there no room, in one way or another, and again, while coordinating matters with the Americans, to put out signals to Syria —

since it is Syria which makes and implements decisions in Lebanon — to try to try to reach a settlement with Syria rather than with this weak regime in Beirut?

[Ben-Elisar] We signalled to Syria on a number of occasions. If you like, I am prepared to seize the opportunity of this interview with you and signal them again. We are willing to sit down with Syria for talks, for negotiations, in whatever manner Syria chooses, in an attempt to reach an agreement. However, I am very much afraid that Syria does not want to respond to our signals. Syria simply does not want to sit down with us; it does not want to reach any agreement with us today. The more we signal and the more we say — how long will we sit in Lebanon? Let us leave immediately! — we will in fact be doing what Shultz is today accusing us of having done. In other words, we will thus encourage Syria not to make any concessions or sacrifices because it will be certain we will get out of Lebanon. I am not justifying Shultz since I do not want the United States to sling mud at us while they, the Americans, are not clean, but we nevertheless must not encourage the Syrians.

[Golan] Another question, Dr Ben-Elisar, which relates to the disclosure or rather a reminder in *THE NEW YORK TIMES* yesterday that the United States conducted secret negotiations with the PLO for 9 months and that it was only the beginning of the Lebanese war which interrupted these contacts. Leftists may now come and say that the war was intended to stop these contracts. What will you tell them?

[Ben-Elisar] First, the U.S. President's national security adviser, McFarlane denied this. He said he did not know of this; he checked this with President Reagan and the President too was ignorant of the matter. I must assume that McFarlane's statement is correct. I cannot conceive of the United States violating a written Presidential commitment to the State of Israel and holding talks with the PLO in the absence of those conditions, which the United States itself set. If the United States had indeed done so, I must say that this is an unusually grave matter, just as the lack of keeping or maintaining commitments and signatures, on the Israeli-Lebanese accord for example, is unusually grave, particularly when this comes on the part of a superpower, the top world power. I must be cautious in my reaction to this *NEW YORK TIMES* report.

Commentary Questions Strategic Coordination With U.S.

TA171117 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
17 Feb 84 p 12

[Commentary by U.S. correspondent 'Uzi Benziman: "Strategic Coordination in Lebanon"]

[Text] Israeli diplomats in Washington say that one should not draw inferences about the character and prospects of the strategic dialogue Israel and the United States have been holding from President Reagan's unilateral decision to pull the Marines out of Lebanon . To wit, last Tuesday, only a short time (a few hours at the most) before the White House published the President's decision to transfer the Marines to the 6th Fleet ships, Reagan sent a message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir informing him about the move and explaining his reasons. As far as is known, the special message was compatible with the public explanations for the President's decision. In other words, the U.S. ally in the political-military effort in Lebanon actually did not know in advance about the President's decision and its opinion was not sought before Ronald Reagan made the decision.

This is as astonishing as is the fact that Israel puts up with such conduct. Lebanon has been the main item in the joint agenda of Israel and the United States for the last 20 months. Both countries regarded Lebanon as an arena for joint action where both their interests merged. During this period, Israel carried out — or abstained from carrying out — moves and actions in Lebanon out of consideration for the United States. However, at a critical moment, the White House makes a fundamental decision without consulting its ally. Not only is this move incompatible with the cooperation between the two countries, but it also contradicts the agreements reached during Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington last November and President Reagan's declaration about the beginning of a strategic dialogue.

On the face of it, one could argue that Israel was also not very meticulous about coordinating its moves in Lebanon with the United States: The withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf area was not exactly coordinated with Washington. However, this argument would be wrong. The withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf area was put off several times only because Israel took pains to consult the U.S. Administration. The IDF forces eventually left the Ash-Shuf area because the Cabinet believed there was no justification to comply with the U.S. request for another postponement. Moreover, the main decision made by Shamir and Reagan 3 months ago was designed to preclude any of the two countries from taking independent action in Lebanon. This is what the President stated in the communique summing up Shamir's visit: A central issue in our meeting was Lebanon's suffering and the dangers this country harbors for our joint interests. Elsewhere in the communique Reagan stated: We have agreed on the need to strengthen our cooperation in areas where our interests overlap, particularly in the military-political arena.

The fact is that at the critical moment, the United States acted on its own in the blazing arena of Lebanon and did not fulfill its commitment to coordinate its position with Israel. It merely sufficed with sending a message to Israel about its decision. This does not mean that the Israeli Embassy in Washington did not feel or assess which way the wind was blowing in the corridors of the administration, and Jerusalem probably received various reports and assessments about the possibility that the President may order the pullout of the Marines. However, this does not detract from the gravity of the U.S. behavior.

Some may argue that the fact that the United States decided to pull out the Marines without previously consulting Israel does not mean much. After all, Israel is not thrilled about its own involvement in Lebanon and it has been witnessing the difficulties of the U.S. Administration which is knee-deep in the Lebanese swamp. Israel has also publicly declared that it would not interfere with the administration's considerations when it decides about the future of the Marines in Beirut. Some may even wonder whether previous consultation would have led the administration to a different decision. Still, these reservations do not detract from the validity of our questioning of the U.S. Administration's behavior in this affair.

In order to understand the reasons for this conduct, one should go back to last week, to the days preceding the decision. President Reagan decided to pull out the Marines during a pleasure trip to Illinois to mark his 73d birthday. On the way, he stopped over in Las Vegas to deliver a speech. At the end of his journey, he arrived at this ranch in Californian for a 5-day holiday which was not disrupted due to the events in Lebanon. When Reagan made the decision, his official political adviser, Secretary of State George Shultz, was not standing next to him. Shultz was in Grenada at the time on his way back from a tour of several Latin American countries. Reagan's decision was made under the influence of Caspar Weinberger and White House Chief of Staff James Baker.

The representatives of the political branch in the administration — Shultz, his deputy Lawrence Eagleburger, and National Security Council Chairman Robert McFarlane — were pushed aside under the pressure of the defense establishment (led by the secretary of defense) which had for a long time thought that the U.S. involvement in Lebanon should come to an end and that of the political advisers (led by Baker) who argued that Reagan's election campaign considerations called for the pullout of the Marines. In other words, in a moment of internal pressure, Reagan proceeded in a fashion incompatible with his agreements with Shamir.

One should make this point clear because the defense establishment is also not thrilled about the strategic cooperation with Israel. Although Israel has not recently encountered any special difficulties in the Pentagon — and there are even signs that the Americans shortly intend to demonstrate the security relations between the two countries — one should bear in mind that Weinberger and his aides have not changed their opinion that it is not in the interests of the United States to further strengthen its relations with Israel because its main interest lies with the Arab countries. In a moment of trial, the security branch might overcome other promises and risks undertaken in the strategic dialogue.

Knowledgeable sources say such fears are unfounded. The strategic deliberations do not revolve around the situation in Lebanon but rather on the U.S. apprehension about negative developments (as far as it is concerned) in the Persian Gulf area in the wake of the expansion of Muslim fanaticism.

This statement further underscores the question: Why should Israel at all enter the framework of strategic coordination with the United States if it is clear from the outset that its implementation will take a one-way direction, that of Israeli assistance to the United States in the Persian Gulf area?

This coordination appears attractive at present because it involves U.S. financial investments in Israel (to establish the infrastructure of emergency warehouses) which will contribute to efforts to improve the economic situation. Nevertheless, it seems that the experience in Lebanon points to the problematic — not to mention dangerous — character of the strategic coordination between the two countries.

U.S. Initiative With Jordan, Egypt Reported

TA210605 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The United States is partner to an initiative by Egypt and Jordan whose goal is to form a Palestinian delegation, containing people close to the PLO, for negotiations about autonomy. This would be a new political move, and was revealed yesterday following an interview granted by President Reagan's adviser on national security affairs, Robert McFarlane. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the evaluation in Jerusalem is that the Reagan administration no longer fears reactions in Israel or among Jewish elements in the United States to this move, although this is a presidential election year in the United States. The administration is working very determinedly to further this initiative in the very near future.

Until the President's adviser exposed all this, all the moves were made in great secrecy. McFarlane said yesterday that the administration was trying to bring about negotiations among Israel, Egypt, and Jordan in order to establish an independent administration in Judaea and Samaria, and that Palestinian representatives would be included in the delegation of either Egypt or Jordan. According to the reports reaching Jerusalem, U.S. Administration staff are currently holding contacts with people close to the PLO to try to persuade them to join talks about an upcoming arrangement in Judaea and Samaria. Recently a man close to Yasir 'Arafat visited the United States, and administration staff gave him a report on the talks that had been held there with the president of Egypt and the king of Jordan.

Ambassador Rosenne Reaction

TA210642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Israel's ambassador to the United States, Me'ir Rosenne, has said that he hopes the story is not true, but if there is any truth in it, it would give rise to problems in the relations between the two countries. This refers to a report in *THE NEW YORK TIMES* that the United States held contacts with Yasir 'Arafat about 9 months before the war in Lebanon in an attempt to persuade him to recognize Israel. In return, he was promised that Washington would negotiate with him overtly. Last night the PLO denied this.

Rosenne 17 Feb Interview

TA171954 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Interview with Ambassador to the United States Me'ir Rosenne by correspondent Elimelekh Ram in Washington on 17 February — videotaped]

[Text] [Ram] Mr Rosenne, do you believe that what took place in Lebanon this week indicates the failure of U.S. policy there?

[Rosenne] What took place in Lebanon this week is grave as far as the prospects for peace in the entire region are concerned. To witness the fact that an agreement signed between two sovereign countries, and ratified by both, is abolished unilaterally because of pressure, because of terrorist actions by a third party, that is a serious matter in itself.

[Ram] You have just returned from a meeting with the U.S. under secretary of state. What do you think the United States will do next in Lebanon?

[Rosenne] The United States will of course have to present its own position; I am not its representative. My impression, however, is that the United States supports the 17 May agreement; it supports the continuation of the peace process. Let us not forget that peace between Israel and Egypt was also achieved with U.S. mediation, and the United States today is greatly concerned over Egypt's violations of that agreement. It is much troubled that the Egyptian ambassador has not yet returned to Israel, and by Egyptian violations of the peace agreement. This, at any rate, is not just my own impression but also that of everyone who is in contact with the U.S. Administration.

[Ram] What is being done to allay these anxieties?

[Rosenne] The United States is engaged in activities to resolve the entire issue. In fact, you yourself noted the meetings taking place. The United States is not neglecting the region. [end recording]

Sources Deny Lewis Talks on Palestinians

TA212016 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem said this evening that Ambassador Lewis did not hold any talks on the Palestinian issue or on the incorporation of a Palestinian delegation in the autonomy talks. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that the Camp David agreement speaks of the incorporation of Palestinians not identified with the PLO.

U.S. sources have said that the U.S. position has not changed, and that is that no direct negotiations will be held with the PLO until it recognizes Israel's existence according to UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Embassy Briefs Jerusalem on Mubarak Visit to U.S.

TA201030 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Feb 84 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Reports reaching Jerusalem about Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz, and other senior U.S. officials indicate that the Egyptian president is not willing to pursue any initiative for improving the Israeli-Egyptian peace process.

Relying on Mubarak's talks, the Israeli Embassy in Washington briefed Jerusalem that the U.S. Administration is concerned that the Egyptian president wants to place the peace process into deep freeze and that he is heading toward a period of reconciliation with the Arab world at the expense of peace with Israel.

The impression in Washington, as reported in Jerusalem, is that there is no chance for the resumption of the peace process in the near future, and that the Egyptian president is firmly opposed to returning his ambassador to Tel Aviv.

According to the reports, President Reagan proposed a meeting between the Egyptian president and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at any place Mubarak would choose — Cairo, Washington or a European capital — for a discussion on renewing the peace process. Mubarak rejected this appeal outright, saying that as long as Israel holds on to occupied land in Lebanon and does not initiate moves for the promotion of the Palestinian cause, he has nothing to talk over with Shamir. The Egyptian president noted that without these two conditions, the Egyptian ambassador will not return to Tel Aviv.

Mubarak Urges Resumption of Autonomy Negotiations

TA191938 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] In his talks in Washington, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak urged that the negotiations on autonomy resume immediately after a partial solution has been found to the Lebanese problem. Diplomatic sources in Israel told our correspondent Yisra'el Segal that Egypt has been conducting a diplomatic offensive on this issue in Europe, along with Jordan and representatives of the inhabitants in the territories.

The diplomatic sources said that Mubarak's remarks in support of 'Arafat's moderate leadership were made to prepare U.S. public opinion for including the PLO in these negotiations.

Mubarak To Send Personal Letter to Prime Minister

TA211019 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak intends to send a personal letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which he details his opinion concerning the continuation of the Camp David process and the autonomy talks. President Mubarak denied, in a roundabout way, remarks attributed to him to the effect that the Camp David process was over.

Mubarak stated this in a meeting in Cairo with the head of the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organizations, Julius Berman. Berman told our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh that in his opinion Egypt does not intend to develop its neighborly relations with Israel. However, it does not desire war: At this stage, Egypt is interested in returning to the Arab world.

Egypt May Allow Tourists To Visit Israel

TA220922 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Feb 84 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Yosef Walter]

[Excerpts] For the first time since the signing of the peace treaty, the Egyptian Government has agreed in principle to allow Egyptian tourists to visit Israel, and to remove all the restrictions on issuing visas to groups and individuals who want to visit Israel.

Israeli sources in Cairo told *MA'ARIV* that if this materializes, it will represent a significant breakthrough in thawing relations between the two countries.

In a meeting with Israeli workers visiting Cairo at the beginning of this week, the adviser on tourism affairs at the Israeli Embassy said that the Egyptians had agreed in principle to allow groups of Christian Copts and Muslims to depart for Israel. It is not known when the first group will be arriving, because the contacts are still underway and because the entire project depends on the approval of higher echelons, apparently of President Husni Mubarak.

Since signing the peace treaty, the Egyptian Government has not allowed organized groups or individuals to visit Israel, except for a few individuals who come here on business, or travel agents who organize tours in Egypt for Israeli tourists.

Jerusalem Arabic Interviews Egyptian NDP Leader

JN202055 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Julius Berman, president of the Jewish organizations conference in the United States, has announced that President Mubarak agreed to help Israel resume the search for the bodies of the Israeli soldiers who were reported missing in action. Ya'qov Kassav spoke on the telephone a short while ago with Dr Mustafa Khalil, deputy leader of the Egyptian National Democratic Party, and asked him about the effect of this issue on Egypt's policy toward Israel.

[Begin recording] [Mustafa Khalil] I cannot consider it as a shift in policy, but it can be explained as having taken place within the framework of the peaceful relations between Egypt and Israel.

[Ya'qov Kassav] Do you view the search process as a beginning of better relations?

[Khalil] Of course the strain in relations was the result of some Israeli actions —namely, the attack on Lebanon and the occupation of southern Lebanon. Of course Egypt hopes that this will end as soon as possible so that relations with Israel will return to their previous course.

[Kassav] Do you consider it to be a humanitarian action?

[Khalil] Besides being a humanitarian action, it is also directed to all the Israelis in order to prove Egypt's good will in dealing with Israel on the basis of lasting peace.

[Kassav] There is a question that we often like to ask. When will the Egyptian ambassador return to Israel?

[Khalil] We also have a question: Namely, when will Israel withdraw from southern Lebanon? I hope that you will ask that question after Israel's complete withdrawal.

[Kassav] Do you anticipate a similar positive step from Israel in return for the search process?

[Khalil] We have been anticipating a step from Israel for a long time. We urge the Israeli side to make one because we hope that the peace treaties with Israel will be strengthened to encompass the whole region. We anticipate a complete withdrawal from southern Lebanon and from all of Lebanon.

[Kassav] Thank you, Dr Mustafa Khalil. [end recording]

Sources Say Tabah Will Not Be Annexed to Elat

TA211351 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Feb 84 p 3

[Text] Political sources last night made clear that the Tabah beach would not be annexed to the Elat Municipality but rather that the latter would supply services such as water, electricity, and garbage collection. The sources added that an agreement to this effect was reached last week between the Elat Municipality and the director of the Tabah administration, Re'uven Aloni, following the approval of the Interior Ministry.

Two Sabotage Attempts Reported in Gaza District

TA211619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] There were two sabotage attempts in Gaza today but there were no casualties. In the Jabalyah refugee camp, a makeshift explosive charge was thrown at an IDF patrol. In Medina Square, a makeshift grenade was hurled at a vehicle which was parked on the scene shattering its windows. The security forces began extensive searches. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the security forces have in the last few days arrested dozens of youths from the Jabalyah refugee camp for interrogations.

West Bank Delegation Urges Husayn, 'Arafat Accord

TA201718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] A delegation of personalities from the territories has recently departed for Jordan with a memorandum addressed to King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat, calling on them to reach an agreement before it is too late. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the memorandum is signed by several dozen pro-Jordanian personalities. The delegation insludes Hikmat al-Masri, who has recently been elected deputy chairman of the Jordanian Parliament.

Briefs

IDF Appointment — Brigadier General Aharon Vardi has been appointed commanding officer of regional and civil defence. He succeeds Brig Gen Arye Dayan, who is terminating active duty in the IDF. [Excerpt] [Jerusalem *THE JERUSALEM POST* in English 17 Feb 84 p 3 TA]

PANA Council Session Opens; Djibo Ka Remarks Noted

AB211220 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The third ordinary session of the Intergovernmental Council of PANA [PAN AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY] commenced this afternoon at (Ngal). The opening session was presided over by Djibo Ka, minister of information, telecommunications, and relations with Parliament, who represented the head of state [of Senegal, Abdou Diouf]. The following information is reported by Djerma Ndiaye, who was present at the ceremony.

Twenty-eight African countries witnessed the crowning of 22 years of effort toward the decolonization of information and communications; 22 years during which Africa was bludgeoned with news reports emanating from abroad, more precisely from Western countries. As they had the monopoly on press agencies and communication techniques, the West moulded and violated the conscience of millions of men and women. Then, however, came the march with the first meeting in Algiers of the Union of African Press Agencies, followed by the Addis Ababa convention in 1979, and the 25th of May 1983, when PANA initiated operations with its first dispatch from its headquarters in Dakar. What a march! According to Djibo Ka, who presided over the opening ceremony, PANA, like all other information systems found on the African Continent, should integrate information, which is a vehicle for development, with the consolidation of international sovereignty — the greatest demands of our people.

[Begin Ka recording] It has been found that no development is possible without the effective and conscious participation of the people for whom it is intended. This participation, in our opinion, can only be accomplished through a viable educational and informational system, which should of necessity have as its goal in Africa, as in most other developing countries, to perform a social, cultural, educational, and finally political information function. When it strives to promote social communication, information becomes a factor of unity, favoring the consolidation of relations of solidarity both within and beyond national borders. When it is aimed at safeguarding the cultural values of a people, information becomes a means of cultural liberation and national identity without which it is difficult to assess, for a given people, the prospects for lasting development. When, through social communication, it performs the function of asserting a national cultural identity, information really becomes a major factor of political liberation. In short, there is no message transmitted by a news agency that is neutral. Such a message is the expression of a will, an option whose finality is embodied in a political, cultural, or ideological speech.

It is for all these reasons that African states, whose ambition once again is to achieve their unity within the framework of a consolidated intra-African cooperation, have spared no efforts to make PANA an irreplaceable instrument of educating and training the masses, and simultaneously an instrument of cultural and political liberation. This instrument will henceforth enable our old continent and young states to present the real face of eternal Africa throughout the world.

Further on Meeting

AB211508 Dakar PANA in English 1338 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Dakar, 21 Feb (PANA) — The third ordinary session of the Intergovernmental Council of the PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, PANA, opened yesterday in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, with a call on the agency to integrate the information it conveys for Africa's development and sovereignty.

Mr Lucio Lara, secretary of the MPLA-LABOR Party, and president of the PANA Intergovernmental Council, said the meeting was being held at a time of international crisis. Africa, he said, continues to suffer from imperialist attacks. Namibia remains occupied by South African troops. Angola, Lesotho, and Mozambique continue to be victims of destructive attacks with excessive loss of human life, he added. He asked PANA to play a leading role in formulating a well-coordinated African opinion, as well as world opinion on the liberation struggles and unmasking the maneuvers by the enemies of Africa. He was confident that the PANA Intergovernmental Council would consolidate the progress the agency has achieved so far since it started transmission in May last year.

In his message read by the OAU director, Press/Information Division, Mr Paul Fouda-Onambele, the OAU interim secretary general, Mr Peter Onu, said that with the take off of PANA, Africa has made a giant step toward the strengthening of understanding among peoples of Africa. The secretary general appealed to all African states to take urgent steps to reduce their telecommunication rates in favour of PANA and national news agencies. In this way, Mr Peter Onu said, the major impediments to free and balanced circulation of information, which is the wish of all of us, would have been removed. He said that the daily activites of PANA constitute one of the most practical and positive demonstrations of the struggle being untiringly waged by Africa for its total liberation and survival.

On behalf of the Organisation of African Unity, Mr Peter Onu thanked the UNESCO director-general, Mr A.M. M'bow for the invaluable assistance UNESCO is giving PANA. He also thanked the United Nations' bodies, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for their support for PANA.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Receives Malian President for Talks

LD200023 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Malian President Moussa Traore is in Algiers for a short visit; tomorrow morning he will go on an official trip to the FRG for 4 days. While in Algiers President Moussa Traore has had a private discussion with President Chadli Bendjedid.

Following this meeting the president of the republic gave a dinner in honor of the Malian president. In the course of the afternoon President Chadli Bendjedid and Moussa Traore had discussions attended by officials of the two countries. The Algerian side included the head of the permanent secretariat of the Central Committee, the prime minister, and the minister of the interior and local communities. On the Malian side the discussion was joined by the secretary for external relations of the Executive Bureau of the Democratic Union of the Malian people, the secretary for economic and social affairs, and the minister of state in charge of economy and planning, as well as the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation.

President Leaves After Talks

LD201125 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Algiers, 20/2/84 (APS) — President Moussa Traore of Mali left Algiers early this morning after a very short visit here.

Political talks were held in the afternoon with President Chadli Bendjedid, in the presence of Politburo members Cherif Messaadia [word indistinct] of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat Abdelhamid Brahimi prime minister and Hadj Yala interior minister. On the Malian side were present also Ahmed Mohamed Hamani secretary at external relations of the Democratic Union of the Malian People (D.U.M.P.), and the (?ministers) of economy and foreign affairs.

Later a second round of talks was held between the two presidents.

President Moussa Traore who stopped here yesterday on his way to the German Federal Republic was greeted the airport by President Chadli Bendjedid, F.L.N. secretary general.

In a brief statement to the press the Malian president said his visit comes in line with relations of traditional friendship linking the two peoples.

He will examine he said that President Chadli matters of common interset.

The Malian delegation includes also Ahmed Mohamed Hamani, secretary of the D.U.M.P. in charge of external affairs, and the ministers of planification and foreign affairs.

Algerian-Soviet Commission Meets 18 Feb in Algiers

LD191217 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] The ninth session of the Algerian-Soviet mixed commission opened in Algiers yesterday. It was chaired jointly by Trade Minister Khellef and Yakov Ryabov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. The commission will examine possibilities for cooperation in the industrial, energy and agricultural fields.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Al-Jumayyil Envoy

LD171914 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, 17 February — The brother leader of the revolution today received the personal envoy of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil.

SFRY Official Planinc Arrives for Visit

LD201846 Tripoli JANA in English 1803 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Ulla 16, Feb 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Milka Planinc, president of the Federal Executive Council, arrived in Tripoli this morning on a three day visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah falls within the strategic cooperation, the foundation of which was laid by late President Tito and the revolution's leader. The guest was received at Tripoli International Airport by Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab, secretary of the General People's Committee and other secretaries and the heads of the diplomatic missions of the socialist countries.

Mrs Planinc is accompanied on her visit by a high level delegation. The delegation includes Zivorad Kovacevic, member of the Federal Executive Council; Mirko Ostojic, under secretary for foreign affairs; and the Yugoslav ambassador to the Jamahiriyah and some advisers and experts.

A JANA reporter said that the official talks between the two sides are expected to open later today.

Planinc Arrival Statement

LD201441 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Milka Planinc, president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, arrived in Tripoli this morning for a 3-day visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, in the framework of the relations of strategic cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Milka Planinc made a statement to JANA in which she expressed her pleasure at visiting the Jamahiriyah, voicing confidence that this visit will contribute to an exchange of views and to strengthening intensified cooperation and consolidating the strategic relations between the two countries, the foundations of which were laid by the brother leader of the revolution and the late leader Josef Broz Tito.

She said: We (?strive for) the establishment of equal relations between peoples and international cooperation for peace. The Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia, she said, are linked by strong relations that strengthen the objectives and principles of the Nonaligned Movement, of which are both members.

At the conclusion of her statement, Milka Planinc said: Our presence here is an emphasis on continuous cooperation between the two countries in all fields, and exchanging visits and talks between us is a sound way to consolidate relations of cooperation.

Further on Planinc Visit

For Yugoslav-source coverage of the visit by SFRY Federal Executive Council President Milka Planinc, including her meeting with General People's Congress Secretary Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab, see the Yugoslavia section of the 22 February Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

SFRY Cooperation Minister Continues Visit

Industrial Cooperation Discussed

LD192152 Tripoli JANA in English 1804 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Awal 15 Feb 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Light Industries met this morning with the Yugoslav minister of cooperation currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

The meeting took up the discussion [word indistinct] cooperation between the two friendly countries in the field of industry and the means to develop this cooperation in a beneficial way for the peoples of the Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia.

Meets With Treasury Secretary

LD200237 Tripoli JANA in English 1806 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Awal 15, Feb 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the General People's Committee for the treasury met here this morning with the Yugoslav minister of cooperation and discussed with him the scope of joint cooperation and the means to bolster cooperation for the service of the friendly peoples in the Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia.

Ethiopia's President Mengistu Arrives for Visit

LD171152 Tripoli JANA in English 0855 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Humada al Ulla 14, Feb 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — President Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of the Ethiopian Socialist Republic and the current president of the Organisation of African Unity, arrived in Tripoli at noon yesterday.

The leader of the revolution was heading those welcoming President Mengistu on his arrival at Tripoli International Airport. Among those welcoming President Mengistu were Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the armed forces; Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi; a number of the General People's Committee; and heads of diplomatic missions accredited in the Jamahiriyah.

President Mengistu Haile Mariam is accompanied by the foreign minister and some [words indistinct] and Ethiopian Government [words indistinct]. President Mengistu Haile Mariam, in a statement to the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY, explained that this visit to the Jamahiriyah will provide the opportunity to meet with the leader of the revolution to discuss bolstering bilateral relations as well as international issues of joint interests.

The Ethiopian president reaffirmed in his statement that the progressive forces should continue their struggle to confront all the imperialist conspiracies till the battle is won.

People's Congress Delegates Cable Al-Qadhdhafi

LD171127 Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Ulla 13, Feb 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The General People's Congress [GPC] has sent a telegram at the end of its 9th regular session to the revolution's leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The telegram reads:

In the name of God, the beneficient, the merciful:

Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, our leader and great thinker, God's blessing and mercy be upon you.

The General People's Congress, composed of the people's congresses and committees, trade unions, federations and vocational associations, would like, at the end of its 9th regular session, to affirm that the resolutions and recommendations endorsed by the congress through a correct democratic approach are aimed at paving the way for an absolute prosperous life.

These resolutions and recommendations are not merely material achievements, but are the core of the people's authority, which the great thoughts of the Green Book advocate. It 's so easy to endorse certain resolutions and recommendations, but it is so difficult to create long-lasting human experience. We from this angle value our recommendations and through them the fruit of success which we have reaped.

Some mistakes and pitfalls accompanied (?the) revolutionary course. This is a natural process in any serious human experiment, but our belief in the great thought remains much greater than these minor mistakes and our faithfulness to the theory makes us capable of overcoming all the obstacles. Looking forward to the future also helps us to overcome all the obstacles on the way.

Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, we avow to you, at this historic moment, to raise high the banner of the Green Book and exert all possible efforts to ensure that the tree of the revolution remains deeply rooted and raised straight up — neither west nor east — and as fruitful as ever.

Our leader, we avow to you to stand firmly in the face of the enemies of our revolution, our thoughts and authority, and the enemies of the peoples and the usurpers of freedom.

-Glory to the great Al Fatih Revolution!
-Glory to the pioneering thoughts!
-The struggle continues. God's mercy and peace be upon you.

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed by Deutsche Welle

LD181559 Tripoli JANA in English 1405 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Awal 14, Feb 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The voice of Federal Germany, radio station "Deutsche Welle," held an interview with the leader of the revolution which took up the great industrial river project which started in the Jamahiriyah. The Arabic speaking radio station broadcast the first part of the interview on Thursday and the second part yesterday evening.

The leader of the revolution explained that tremendous efforts have been deployed in the past few years to overcome the desert and talked about the discovery of great quantities of water in the south, where land is non-arable, and the serious resolution adopted by the masses of the Basic People's Congresses to build the great industrial river, the first of its kind in the world to help transport water from the south to agricultural land in the north.

The leader went on to say that in addition to the huge surfaces which will be irrigated by the waters from this industrial river, the existing agricultural projects will benefit from eternal irrigation from these waters. In response to questions by "Deutsche Welle" radio the leader confirmed that this important project will effectively contribute to meeting the needs of the Jamahiriyah to help it export the extra output. Once implemented, this project, he said, will bring about a major social, material and civilizational transformation over Libyan Arab territory and north Africa. The leader also talked about the enthusiasm of the Libyan Arab people to implement this great project which, he confirmed, has encouraged a great number of Libyan men and women to donate their salaries and jewelry to help finance it, and reviewed resolutions by the Basic People's Congresses on this issue.

The leader then took up the discussion of existing relations between the Jamahiriyah and Federal Germany and the possibility of German companies contributing to the implementation of some stages of this great industrial river project. He said the scope of trade exchange between the Jamahiriyah and Federal Germany was one of the main reasons behind Reagan's intensification of pressure on Germany to make it join the hostility against Libya. Reagan's objective was to deprive Germany and limit its economic and trade activities in the world, and German citizens should be aware of this as the Reagan administration's campaign against Libya is in reality also aimed against Germany, he said.

On the establishment of a joint Arab market, the leader said that "we are working towards finding a joint Arab market and establishing a political and economic Arab unity which will realize all the aspirations of the Arab citizen, although Arab governments show no interest in the future of forthcoming Arab generations and are more preoccupied with power and the means to remain at their posts as long as possible." He emphasized that this Arab political and economic unity will be realized once the masses will be able to govern themselves and once peoples replace traditional political regimes.

Armed Forces Commander Receives PLO Delegation

LD171144 Tripoli JANA in English 0850 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Ulla 14, Feb 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, yesterday received Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; Abu Khalid al-Amlah and Abu Ali al-Mahdi, members of the new revolutionary command of Fatah; and Zakariyya Shahin, member of the Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Front.

JANA: BBC Demonstrates Bias Against Libya

LD202206 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Feb (JANA) — BBC radio transmitted within its "World at One" program today a report from its correspondent in Egypt, Fathi al-Basyuni. The report noted a lot of fabricated claims by the fascist regime in Egypt regarding Libyan-Ethiopian intervention in southern Sudan. These claims are the ones that the Egyptian regime and its lackey in Khartoum rely on to divert attention from the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and the escalating revolutionary operations launched by the insurgents, especially in the southern region.

The British radio deliberately broadcast such a report because it coincides with British hostile intents toward the Jamahiriyah. It demonstrated its blatant bias on the side of the agent regimes in Egypt and Sudan by making use of the fabricated information and false claims.

We cannot at all be lenient when we are becoming a target for reactionary and colonialist trumpets and when British radio is being used to exaggerate and spread black propaganda against us. We consider that broadcasting such a report, one that abuses the Jamahiriyah's stances, is based on a political position that is taken by the British Government against the Jamahiriyah.

Therefore, we believe there are no pretexts for broadcasting such a malicious report, unless British radio has placed itself under official British guidance to serve the hostile policies directed against us by the agents in Egypt and Sudan, who are now facing the most severe waves of mass [jamahiri] wrath as a result of their policies, stands, courses and capabilities — which are mobilized to serve the imperialist, colonialist objectives and plans in the region. The negative significance of broadcasting such a report that was prepared by one of the hired agents of the Egyptian regime, which attempts to cover up its purpose and objectives in Sudan, is quite clear.

We consider such media practices injected with professionalism. We cannot accept them and we shall confront them by means and methods that are imposed by an aware and mature will to expose what is intended to cover up for the fascist agents in Cairo and Khartoum.

MAURITANIA

Minnih, Algerian Envoy Hold Cooperation Talks

AB161800 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Major Ahmed Ould Minnih, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, this morning received in audience the Algerian ambassador to Mauritania.

After the audience, the Algerian diplomat said their talks covered bilateral cooperation between the two countries. He pointed out that Mauritanian-Algerian relations are good, and there is a sincere desire on the part of both parties to strengthen them further.

Delegation Returns From Visit to USSR

AB202118 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Major Cheik Sid 'Ahmed Ould Babamine, CMSN permanent secretary, returned to Nouakchott yesterday afternoon from Moscow. The CMSN permanent secretary headed the Mauritanian delegation to the funeral of President Yuriy Andropov.

Apart from the official ceremonies, the CMSN permanent secretary had several contacts in the Soviet capital. Major Cheik Sid 'Ahmed Ould Babamine spoke to our reporter, Ahmadu (Buhube):

[Begin Babamine recording] I'm back from Moscow where I led our country's delegation to the funeral of President Andropov. I presented condolences from the CMSN to Konstantin Chernenko, the newly elected general secretary of the CPSU, who was with the members of the Central Committee.

Furthermore, my stay in Moscow enabled me to hold a number of useful contacts: First, with a number of Arab and African delegations, and second, with Soviet officials, including primarily Petr Strautmanis, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, with whom I discussed the state of our cooperation with the USSR, particularly in the fisheries field. These contacts were held in an atmosphere of friendship and frankness.

I seize the opportunity you offer me to thank the Soviet Government and people for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to me and my delegation during our stay in Moscow. [end recording]

Information Minister Receives Kuwaiti Envoy

AB161758 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Dr Mohamed Sale Ould Zein, minister of information and telecommunications, this morning received in audience the Kuwaiti ambassador to Mauritania.

Their talks covered cooperation between Kuwait and Mauritania and the possibility of exchanging programs between the two countries.

Opposition Leader Interviewed on Issues

PM171642 Paris LE MONDE in French 11 Feb 84 p 5

[Paul Balta report: "Mauritania: Opposition Demands Military Return to Barracks"]

[Text] On a stopover in Paris on his way from Saudi Arabia, Mohamed Abderrahmane Ould Amine, leadership member of the Association for a Democratic Mauritania [AMD], an opposition movement which claims to represent 70 percent of the population, accused the Nouakchott government of failing to establish "a national legal framework enabling all political currents to express themselves freely." When we pointed out to him that the authorities deny that the AMD represents anybody, and that they have established "mass education structures," he replied: "If we do not represent anybody, why not allow the people to express their views? Moreover, the mass education structures do not seem to us to have succeeded in mobilizing the masses."

He recalled that after overthrowing Ould Daddah's regime on 10 July 1978, the military had set themselves three objectives: to withdraw Mauritania from the war, to bring about economic recovery, and to restore the democratic institutions. However, after exercising power for 5 years and 6 months, the military have failed to attain their objectives, Ould Amine noted. "Despite the peace agreement which the government signed with the Polisario Front," he said, "the effects of the conflict are still hanging over the country and neither army personnel nor military spending has been reduced."

As regards the economic situation, "it has rarely been so bad," our interlocutor stated, noting that the foreign debt amounts to $1.4 billion. "The situation in the banks is disastrous," he stressed. "The International Bank of Mauritania's foreign debt amounts to 7 billion ouguiyas, and the treasury of the Arab Bank of Mauritania (Egyptian and Kuwaiti capital) is not much better. As for the Central Bank, its currency reserves are scarcely higher than the deposits of Libya ($44 million) and Kuwait ($35 million), and only represent 2 months' imports."

Ould Amine thinks that "for lack of sound management," prospects are now better in other sectors, especially the fishing sector which is one of the country's essential resources. Similarly, the

National Industrial and Mining Company — "the only one which was doing well" — is in difficulty because of the falling price of iron, "but also," he said, "because of political pressures to take on unprofitable staff." He also stressed that there was a 50-percent deficit in the state budget in 1983 and recalled that the IMF has set several conditions for granting credit, notably a 30-percent devaluation of the ouguiya, realistic prices for essential products, and the financial reorganization of public sector companies which are virtually all running at a loss.

Finally, our interlocutor deplored the drought from which the country is suffering, but he blamed the mamanagement of the department for food security, which he accused of "lacking in stringency" and of "misappropriation" in the distribution of gifts.

At the political level, he accused the military of failing to restore democracy and a multiparty system. He also deplored the fact that around 50 prominent people and cadres — "which," he said, "is a large number given the size of the country" — are in prison, not to mention those who are excluded from political life. He mentioned, among others, the case of economist Abderrahmane Ould Daddah, who has still not been tried after 4 years, even though nobody knows the reason for his arrest, and the cases of Colonel Mustapha Ould Salek, the former head of state, and Mr Bneijara, former civilian prime minister, both sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, and also the cases of former ministers like Bredellei and Dahane Ould Mahmoud, both Ba'thists, and of Colonel Soumare Slimane.

Ould Amine regretted the fact that Mauritania's international role is no longer as important as it was during the first 20 years of its independence, and expressed the view that the government should avoid taking sides in the Sahara conflict. "But, above all," he said, "the AMD wants the restoration of democracy and the military to return to the barracks."

MOROCCO

Official Takes Hassan Message to OAU Leader

LD181344 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Abdelhqa Tazi left for Addis Ababa today.

In a statement to the radio reporter, the secretary of state said: [Begin recording] I am going to Addis Ababa on a mission to convey the reply of a written message from His Majesty King Hassan II to Colonel Haile Mariam, the Ethiopian president, in his capacity as the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity. [end recording]

Friendship Agreement Signed With Soviet Group

LD181351 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow, Feb 18 (MAP) — Mr Mohammed al-Fassi, chairman of the Morocco-USSR Friendship Association, and Mr Georgiy Veselov, minister of public education of the R.S.F.S.R. and chairman of the USSR-Morocco Friendship Association, initialled here Friday a cooperation agreement for 1984-85, the Soviet news agency NOVOSTI reported.

In a declaration to NOVOSTI, Mr al-Fassi expressed hope that this agreement would give a new impetus to these relations. Mr al-Fassi underlined that King Hassan II of Morocco has indicated on many occasions that organizations such as the Moroccan-Soviet associations can play an important role in reinforcing peace.

"The major aim of our activities," Mr. al-Fassi added, "is the consolidation of peace worldwide, especially at a time when the threat of war weighs on humanity".

On the other hand, Mr al-Fassi evoked the friendly contacts and different artistic and scientific activities organized by the two associations in the two countries.

SUDAN

USSR Accused of Abetting Libyan, Ethiopian Acts

JN191343 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Feb (MENA) — 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, Sudan's first deputy prime minister, has accused the USSR of abetting and supporting the Libyan-Ethiopian intervention [in Sudan] with the aim of spreading sedition and disturbing stability in both northern and southern Sudan.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA'* published today, At-Tayyib said that the members of the so-called revolutionary committees, who have recently given themselves up to the Sudanese authorities, confessed to having planned subversive activities for certain vital and strategic Sudanese installations. He said that there are 10 camps inside Ethiopia to train groups to carry out armed robberies and assaults in the southern border region.

At-Tayyib said that the situation in southern Sudan is stable, particularly in the Bahr al-Ghazal and the equatorial provinces, and that development projects in both provinces are proceeding as scheduled.

Foreign Minister on Rapprochement With Ethiopia

EA210245 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The president of the republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, met Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak in his office at the People's Palace this morning.

After the meeting, Mr Mubarak issued a press statement in which he said that the president of the republic had issued his instructions for the OAU ministers meeting to be held in Addis Ababa from 27 February this year. Mr Mubarak said that the president stressed the need to preserve the unity of the organization, in order to solve African disputes under its auspices and to make further efforts to promote cooperation among African countries.

Mr Mubarak said in his statement that Sudan had decided to end unilaterally its information campaign against Ethiopia as a goodwill initiative towards its neighbor. He also said contacts are continuing to fix a date for a meeting between the foreign ministers of Sudan and Ethiopia to be held soon.

His excellency added: I summoned th Ethiopian ambassador in Khartoum before my departure for the Islamic summit and told him that what was going on between Sudan and Ethiopia was not in the interest of the two countries and benefitted no one except a third party. I told him that Sudan believed in the need for maintaining its relations with Ethiopia on the principles of good neighborliness, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutual cooperation.

Sudan had sufficient courage to take the initiative to call for a meeting at the foreign ministers' level at any venue determined by Ethiopia so that we may carry out our duties as foreign ministers toward the two fraternal and neighboring countries. His excellency said that the Ethiopian foreign minister had welcomed the Sudanese initiative and expressed his appreciation. He asked for the meeting to be deferred until the information campaigns are stopped by the two countries.

He excellency added that he met the Ethiopian charge d'affaires in Khartoum and explained to him the need to fix a date for the meeting at the earliest possible opportunity, because the continuing disputes between the two countries were not in their mutual interests and because Sudan had stopped the information campaign. As a gesture of goodwill to its neighbor Ethiopia, it had also handed over to the Ethiopian charge d'affaires in Khartoum five armed Ethiopian officers who had crossed into Sudan after it was confirmed that they entered the country by mistake.

His excellency also said that Dr Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, had conveyed to Sudan the Ethiopian side's readiness to meet, following his recent visit to Ethiopia. The Sudanese Foreign Ministry had charged him with the mission of discussing an appropriate date with the Ethiopian side.

Parliamentary Delegation Visits Northern Cyprus

For (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio reportage on a 172-member parliamentary delegation's visit to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, including talks with President Rauf Denktas and Foreign Affairs and Defense Minister Necati Munir Ertuken, see the Cyprus section of the 21 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

TUNISIA

Postal, Communications Strikes Reported

LD201412 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1244 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis 20 Feb (KUNA) — Postal and telecommunications services have been paralyzed here today between all Tunisian regions on the one hand, and between Tunisia and abroad on the other, due to a general strike staged by post, telegraph and telephone service employees. Tunisia is also currently in the grip of a general strike which primary and secondary schools teachers have been staging for several days. All strikers are calling for a raise in their salaries and improved work and living standards. Mr Mohamed Mzali's government has, however, been able to deflate other attempts to stage strikes in a number of public service sectors.

There are currently rumors in the Tunisian capital that parties and movements hostile to the ruling regime in Tunisia intend to drag the government of Mr Mohamed Mzali into a general confrontation through a broad wave of strikes planned to occur throughout Tunisia early next March; this as a first step towards an open battle against the Tunisian regime.

ETHIOPIA

Foreign Minister Meets Algerian Counterpart

LD212026 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Dr Taleb Ibrahimi is continuing his visit in Ethiopia. Today he visited Langano, 200 km from Addis Ababa, where he had further talks with his Ethiopian counterpart, Goshu Wolde. He also visited an orphanage. The Algerian-Ethiopian talks center on the ways of strengthening bilateral relations and on current international problems, particularly those confronting Africa. The talks will end tomorrow with the signing of documents for the creation of a mixed commission for cooperation. Yesterday, apart from his talks with Goshu Wolde, the head of Algerian diplomacy had talks with the Ethiopian ministers for finance and foreign trade.

KENYA

President Moi Appoints New Ambassadors

EA201253 Nairobi THE KENYA TIMES in English 20 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] President Moi has named eight new ambassadors and high commissioners and reposted 12 old ones, *THE KENYA TIMES* learnt.

Mr B. Kipkoech Kipkulei of the Ministry of Education has been appointed Kenya's high commissioner in London, taking over from Mr Bethwell Kiplagat, who is now the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Of the eight new ones, J.K. Muthama and Mr Joseph Nyagah were already named soon after the Cabinet was appointed following last year's general election. But the countries to which they were to be accredited were not announced.

Muthama, a former director of agriculture, moves to Rome as Kenya's representative in the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), while Nyagah, a bander goes to Brussels.

Mr Maurice Omwony, now chief executive of the Investments Promotion Centre, is the new ambassador to Bonn.

Mr Mohamed Ali Abdi, a former member of Parliament, moves to Riyadh, a post left vacant following the recall last year of Mr Noah Okulo.

Mr S. Bullut, a high-level civil servant, is our man at Abu Dhabi, where he will cover the entire United Arab Emirates.

Mr Ole Siparo is the new ambassador to Somalia.

Mr Christopher Dena, moves to Kamapal, a post left vacant more than one year ago when its occupant, Mr Wafula Wabuge, was named permanent representative to the UN. Wabuge himself has moved from New York to Washington, to fill another post which became vacant last year when Mr John Mbogua was appointed permanent secretary in the Ministry of Local Government. In New York, Wabuge has been replaced by Mr Raphael Kiilu, whose recent place in Cairo is being taken by Mr Ochieng Adala, who has been our man in Lusaka.

Mr Alfred Machayo moves from Lagos to Lusaka; Mr J.K. Kimani from Paris to Kinshasa; Mr E.A. Lang'at from Moscow to Stockholm; Mr T. Kimunai to New Delhi; Mr Kefa Onyoni from Tokyo to Lagos; and Mr Sospeter Mageto from New Delhi to Ottawa.

Whereas Mr Mwabili Kisaka, a veteran foreign serviceman is to represent Kenya in Moscow and Mr Bernard E. Mwangi in Paris, Mr H. Mboya remains in Khartoum and Mr Nganatha in Addis Ababa.

SOMALIA

Radio Halgan: Armed Unit Defects to Opposition

EA212031 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] A unit of 30 armed men from the 61st [name indistinct] (?battalion) defected on 8 February to the SNM [Somali National Movement] wing of the Somali opposition forces. They were led by the commander of [words indistinct], Quleh Adan Ibrahim.

Nur Robleh Rab, a member of the Somali folklore group, also defected to the SNM Movement. All of the defectors stated their enthusiasm to participate in the on-going liberation war to free Somalia, which has reached its final stages.

UGANDA

Czechoslovakia Ready To Aid Industry

EA190528 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Summary] Commerce Minister Mr Omara-Aliro has met the Czechoslovak ambassador to Uganda, Mr Milan Dudas, in his office in Kampala. The two discussed trade relations between Uganda and Czechoslovakia. The minister said the existing trade agreement which the two countries signed 20 years ago will be reviewed. The ambassador told the minister that his country is willing to assist Uganda in a number of areas, including the establishment of small-scale industries.

BENIN

Kerekou Returns From Visit to Togo

AB212230 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Our great comrade in struggle, Comrade Mathieu Kerekou, left Cotonou this morning for Kara, Togo, where he held talks with his brother and friend, President Eyadema. The friendly and working visit which President Kerekou paid today to the Togolese Republic is within the framework of the necessary exchange of views between the two heads of state who are comrades-in-arms and friends, with a view to strengthening the cooperation between our two neighborly countries and brotherly peoples. Therefore, it is normal that this permanent exchange of views takes place between Benin and Togo — whose people are bound by several long-standing ties through history and geography. The Republic of Togo and the People's Republic of Benin, which suffered from a long period of colonialism, are firmly committed to the hard and exciting struggle to achieve a self-reliant development to create better living conditions for their peoples. Both are members of several regional and subregional organizations including the Entente Council and ECOWAS, of which they are founding members. Togo and Benin are two developing countries which value this type of exchange of views to contain the deleterious effects of the current world economic crisis. Permanent exchange of views was the keynote of President Kerekou's current visit to Togo. The visit has just ended and President Kerekou has returned to Cotonou.

GAMBIA

Jawara Commutes Death Sentences of 27 Coupists

AB180734 Paris AFP in English 0716 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Banjul, Feb 17 (AFP) — Gambian President Sir Dawda Jawara today commuted 27 death sentences into prison terms in connection with a mid-1981 attempted coup, it was officially announced here. Seventeen prisoners facing capital punishment had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment, and 10 others were given 20-year terms.

Sir Dawda acted on the eve of the 19th anniversary of Gambian independence.

In all, 32 people were sentenced to death in trials following the July 1981 coup bid. None have been executed, and observers here expected the remaining five death penalties to be commuted after review by the president.

President Addresses German, Spanish Ambassadors

AB180650 Dakar PANA in English 1311 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Banjul, 17 Feb (FINS/PANA) — Recurrent drought, balance of payment deficits, and low commodity prices, have continued to frustrate government efforts at rational development, President D.K. Jawara said.

Addressing the new German ambassador, Dr. Norbert Lang, during the latter's presentation of his letters of credentials, Sir Dawda expressed gratitute and appreciation to the German Government for its impressive contribution to the country's development. Public transport, electricity, forestry, and agriculture have all received German financial and technical assistance in the past few years.

To the Spanish ambassador, Sir Dawda referred in particular to the historic and commercial links between the Gambia and Spain. It is interesting to note that certain Mandinka words like calero (cooking pot), kojaro (spoon), and bandero (flag), which are almost identical with their Spanish equivalents, must have derived from the Iberian Peninsula, Sir Dawda said.

GHANA

Reportage on Regional AAPSO Conference, Reaction

Tawiah Addresses Closing Session

AB172045 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Mr Ebo Tawiah, a member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], has suggested the establishment of an African Freedom Fund under the organization of African Trade Union Unity to speed up trade union and working class action in the struggle against imperialism. He emphasized that no sacrifice is too big in contributing toward a new world order devoid of racial intolerence, political oppression, and economic exploitation and injustice. Ebo Tawiah made this suggestion today during his address to the closing session of the regional conference of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization [AAPSO] in Accra. He saw the conference as another milestone in the building of a new Africa, free from exploitation, in which the prosperity and happiness of the masses will be the hallmark of the continent's history. The PNDC member repeated Ghana's rejection of the withdrawal of freedom forces from Angola as a condition for Namibia's independence, pointing out that such a linkage is a major interference in the affairs of a sovereign state.

The delegates adopted what they described as the Accra Declaration which, among other things, denounced the imperialist powers for circumventing the UN Security Council's mandatory arms embargo imposed on South Africa's apartheid regime. They commended Ghana for its pioneering role in the liberation struggle in Africa, and urged the PNDC to continue its positive contribution.

The next AAPSO conference will be held in Algeria.

Speaking to newsmen later, the administrative secretary of the financial committee on southern Africa, Mr (Eugene Hagan), declared that intensified armed struggle is the only option to force racist South Africa to grant Namibia independence. He said SWAPO and other liberation movements the world over need all the support they can get in their struggle. Mr (Eugene Hagan) hoped the Accra conference would help intensify the campaign to mobilize world opinion against the apartheid system in South Africa.

ANC, Soviet Delegates' Comments

AB212142 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The ANC representative who attended the AAPSO [Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization] conference in Accra last week, Mr (Dan Sende), has stated that no amount of foreign press propaganda can divert the cause of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] from creating a new social order based on true democracy. Mr (Sende), who was speaking to newsmen at Kotoka International Airport before leaving for home today, said delegates to the conference were more convinced that the PNDC is building a democratic society devoid of cheating. This transformation, which threatens the colonial structures, is being distorted by the Western media. Mr (Sende) said the conference has given more impetus to the liberation struggle in southern Africa.

On his part, the leader of the Soviet delegation, Mr (Umalatov Umlamasha) said the atrocities being committed by the apartheid South African regime against the Frontline States could not have been done without the support of the Western press. He added that the presence of Cuban troops in Angola has no linkage with the Namibian independence issue.

On the same plane were the delegations from Congo, Egypt, and Finland.

GRAPHIC Praises Outcome

AB181000 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 18 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC* discusses the just-ended conference of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization [AAPSO] in Accra. The paper is convinced that a serious attempt was made by the participants to provide a framework within which both governments and nongovernmental organizations can support ANC and SWAPO, the two organizations fighting for the independence of South Africa and Namibia, respectively.

The *GRAPHIC* notes that the presence of the liberation movements as well as the Frontline States at the conference testifies to the importance which was attached to it by those who are directly confronted and oppressed by colonialism, racism, and military aggression. It points out that even though the conference was mainly concerned with the struggle in southern Africa, it did not limit itself to that area alone. The participants analyzed the international situation as part of a global situation in which the forces of imperialism are being confronted by people struggling for freedom, peace, and social justice. Solidarity was therefore extended to people in other parts of Africa and Latin America who are struggling for freedom and justice.

In the view of the *GRAPHIC*, the conference adopted three significant documents. First is the Accra Declaration which reaffirms the legitimate right of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia to wage an armed struggle in pursuit of their freedom and human dignity. Second, the Program of Action calls for specific actions on the part of governments and nongovernment agencies to increase the moral and material support to the liberation movements of southern Africa as well as the Frontline States. The third document is a resolution in solidarity with Ghana in which the participants give their overwhelming support for the revolutionary development taking place in the country.

The *GRAPHIC* congratulates the Ghana Peace and Solidarity Council for successfully hosting such an important conference the AAPSO conference coming so soon after the conclusion of the session of the OAU Defense Commission in Accra, which shows that Ghana is once again asserting its leadership in the liberation struggle in Africa.

Soviet Newsmen Tour Western Industrial Sites

AB212215 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] A team of Soviet newsmen from *PRAVDA* and TASS is currently touring the western region to study at first hand economic development activities in the region. The group today visited a number of industries in Sekondi-Takoradi.

At the Boatyard Division of Gihoc [Ghana Industrial Holding Corporation] in Sekondi, the commercial manager of the company, Mr Francis Tandoh, informed the team that the division has skilled manpower to produce fishing boats and trawlers to meet local needs and for export. He disclosed that the company has received orders from overseas countries like the United States and Nigeria for the supply of fishing trawlers. The division could not, however, meet these orders because of lack of inputs [as heard] for the building of the trawlers.

At the Ghana Cement Works Factory in Takoradi, the head of the Quality Control Unit, Mr Yao Sarpong, told the Soviet news team that the production level of cement at the factory is expected to fall as low as 100,000 tons this year as against 200,000 tons last year. This is due to the cuts in electricity supply to the factory and inadequate supply of paper for bagging the cement. The maximum production capacity of the factory is 500,000 tons a year. Mr Sarpong said that the cement works is installing two new packing machines for the factory. The company had also imported filter bags to be installed at the factory to prevent air pollution.

The Soviet news team had earlier paid a courtesy call on the western regional secretary, Dr Don Arthur, in Sekondi.

SFRY Envoy Presents Agricultural Equipment

AB202005 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] A $3 million credit agricultural machinery [as heard] and other inputs meant for the establishment of a joint agricultural project between the Social Security Bank and the Kumawu Traditional Council were presented to the Ghana Government by the Yugoslav Government today. The machinery includes 19 tractors, 1 water tanker, 2 automatic harvesters, and 4 generators. There are also fertilizers, pesticides, and a workshop with a complete set of tools and spare parts.

Making the presentation at a ceremony at Tema, the Yugosalav ambassador to Ghana, Mr Radivoje Petkovic, observed that as the threat of hunger increases, food production becomes a more crucial issue. He said the situation could be well handled by replacing the traditional and unproductive modes of agriculture with modern techniques to produce better yields of crops. Mr Petkovic said his government appreciates the PNDC's [Provisional National Defense Council] efforts to make the nation economically independent, adding that the people and government of Yugoslavia would be very happy to assist [Ghana] toward the achievement of that goal. He expressed satisfaction at the friendly relations between Ghana and Yugoslavia, and hoped that the committee for economic and scientific cooperation between the two countries will soon meet to explore other areas for the promotion of economic cooperation.

Receiving the items on behalf of the government, the secretary for local government, Mr Kwame Dwemo Kesse thanked the Yugoslav Government for the assistance. He was convinced that the equipment would go a long way to contribute to making Ghana self-sufficient in its domestic maize requirements.

GUINEA

Toure on Ties With France, African Problems

AB202045 Dakar PANA in French 1412 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Conakry, 20 Feb (RTG/PANA) — In an interview with newsmen broadcast Sunday by Radio Conakry, the Guinean head of state said, while talking about Guinean-French cooperation, that Guinea has always desired close cooperation with France. President Sekou Toure pointed out that if a breakup between the two countries took place, it was Guinea that was the victim because it had never wished for such a breakup. Now that conditions have permitted a resumption in relations of cooperation, the Guinean head of state went on, it is Guinea's wish that these ties have a solid basis.

"We are aware that France gives generous assistance to several countries. In some cases, it even intervenes to ensure the budgetary balance of certain states," the Guinean president pointed out, stressing that his government rules out this category of assistance.

"We do not want to be a liability to France. We have our problems. These are problems facing all developing countries. We are an organized people who, it is true, do not have powerful means but who, through hard and constant work, can overcome their difficulties," he said.

President Ahmed Sekou Toure added that within the framework of French-Guinean cooperation, his government places his country's enormous resources at France's disposal and it is up to France to decide what its interests are. "Guinea will put these resources at France's disposal without any difficulty so that Guinea can be assisted in its development," he said. Guinea supports cooperation, but it must take a form beneficial to both partners. There should not be a donor on one side and a beneficiary on the other. President Sekou Toure concluded by saying that Guinea perceives cooperation as having two beneficiaries and two donors, stressing that there must be dignity — a concept to which he remains attached — equality, and reciprocity in the advantages of such cooperation.

On the most urgent problems facing Africa, which will be discussed at the 20th OAU summit, the Guinean head of state said the continent's problems have attained a degree of seriousness that puts Africa at the crossroads of its history. He said one of the continent's alternatives is to remain a truly African entity based on the sociohuman values of the continent, and voluntarily abstaining from influences that negatively affect its values by adopting nonalignment, and seeking fraternal and loyal cooperation with all entities desiring cooperation with it. The alternative is to follow the aligned countries and become even more divided than during the colonial era: Africa will be confronted by itself, with the ideological cleavage that would make (?some countries) confront others over absolutely foreign issues, to the detriment of the need for harmonious and peaceful development.

Africa is rich. It has an abundance of potential resources. What it lacks first and foremost is a development mentality. It talks of development but doesn't have the mentality with the proper attitude for it. It doesn't have the courage to do it. It seems it has been used to following others during the period of foreign domination, at a time when it was deprived from exercising its responsibility in the face of its destiny, the Guinean head of state went on. "Africa must understand that it alone can validly solve the problems facing it," he stated.

According to President Sekou Toure, the assistance from Europe, America, Asia, or any other entity, must be seen as strictly supplementary. "Africa," he said, "must therefore review its true problems, draw up a plan for methodical development which would require rigorous discipline on the part of each region in each nation, and on the part of each nation at the continental level, to avoid duplication and waste, accelerate the development of the entire African Continent, and attain a standard of living [words indistinct].

The Guinean head of state urged Africans to refrain from all irrational considerations that paralyze the continent. "The true enemies of Africa," President Sekou Toure said, "are the unconscientious, irresponsible, wasteful, and lazy Africans. They are those who lower their hands into public coffers and steal fortunes that belong to the people. They are those who, instead of contributing to prosperity, work toward the destruction of Africa's gains."

Africa's problem is a matter of attitude of cadres, governments, and intellectuals. It is a matter of the people themselves. Every African must consider as a supreme goal Africa's development in harmony and dignity in all his endeavors at every level," the Guinean head of state concluded.

USSR Donates Fish to Gaoual Earthquake Victims

AB210725 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] His Excellency Vladimir Kitayev, Soviet ambassador to Guinea, this morning at Conakry Harbor handed over 50 tons of fresh fish worth 5.5 million sylis to the National Committee of Solidarity With the Victims of Gaoual. The donation was presented to Abdoulaye Diawa Balde, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of domestic trade, who was representing the Guinean Government.

While handing over this donation from his government to the Guinean Government for the victims of Gaoual, His Excellency Vladimir Kitayev said this action constitutes a sign of the Soviet people's sympathy and friendship for the people of Guinea. The Soviet diplomat expressed the wish to witness a further strengthening of cooperation and friendly relations existing between the peoples of Guinea and the Soviet Union. Replying, Abdoulaye Diawa Balde thanked the Soviet people through the embassy and their government for this act of solidarity which, like the preceding ones, testifies to the excellent relations existing between Guinea and the Soviet Union.

MALI

President Traore in FRG for Talks

For Bamako reportage on President Moussa Traore's visit to the FRG, including speeches made at a luncheon hosted by FRG President Karl Carstens, see the Federal Republic of Germany section in the 22 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Group Returns From USSR Political Training Course

AB201708 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Mr Tianze Bolezogola, secretary for information and culture of the Central Executive Committee, this morning held a working session with several trainees of the party who have returned from the USSR after completing political training there. Mr Bolezogola gave them advice on the judicious use of their acquired knowledge.

NIGERIA

Libya's Jallud Arrives for Official Visit

AB211845 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The Libyan prime minister, Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, arrived in Lagos today on a 3-day official visit. Correspondent Tunde Oschungbomi watched the airport reception and now reports.

[Begin Oschungbomi recording] [Words indistinct] that brought the Libyan prime minister, Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud on the [word indistinct] tarmac. The Libyan prime minister was received with open arms by his opposite number, the Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon and [words indistinct] 21-gun salute. He later inspected a guard of honor mounted by the brigade of guards, after which he was introduced to members of the Supreme Military Council and members of the diplomatic corps of those countries that still maintain ties with Libya.

At exactly 1705, both leaders drove in a convoy to State House, Marina, where the Libyan guests are expected to stay. The Libyan prime minister and his host will meet tomorrow in informal talks on bilateral and continental issues. In continuation of the visit, the Libyan leader will tomorrow visit the National Museum and pay a courtesy call on the head of state and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Muhammadu Buhari. [end recording]

Gabonese Minister Arrives With Bongo Message

AB211715 Lagos NAN in English 1602 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Ikeja, Feb 21 (NAN) A five-man delegation from Gabon headed by the third deputy prime minister, Mr Emile Kassa-Mapsi, arrived in Lagos today to deliver a special message from President Omar Bongo to the head of the Federal Military Government, Major Gen Muhammadu Buhari.

A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) at the Murtala Muhammed Airport reports that the delegation included the Gabonese minister for foreign affairs and cooperation, Mr Martin Bongo; the special adviser to the president, Mr Paul Okunda Dokeatse; and the director of protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr Jean Paulin Ngouda. The delegation is expected to leave for the Republic of Benin tomorrow.

France's Cheysson To Begin 2-Day Visit 24 Feb

AB201925 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson will arrive in Lagos on Friday on a 2-day visit to Nigeria. While in the country, Mr Cheysson will hold talks with his Nigerian counterpart on bilateral issues and events in Africa.

Delegation on Loan Refinancing Leaves UK for France

AB211530 Lagos NAN in English 1445 GMT 21 Feb 84

[By Rowland Nwachukwu]

[Text] London, Feb 21 (NAN) — The Nigerian delegation which held talks in London yesterday with the British chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, goes to Paris today to continue negotiations for the refinancing of Nigeria's short-term trade arrears.

While in London, the three-man Nigerian team, led by the minister of finance, Dr Onaolapo Soleye, held discussions with officials of the British Export Credit Guarantee Department on terms to reschedule the trade arrears.

A source close to the talks told the London correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the delegation, which included Alhaji Abubakar Alhaji, permanent secretary, Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank governor, Alhaji Abdukadir Ahmed, discussed a range of economic and commercial issues with British officials. The source quoted Dr Soleye as saying that some progress had been made toward reaching agreement with insured and uninsured British creditors on the refinancing arrangements.

The Nigerian delegation will visit Bonn later this week for further talks with West German officials on refinancing arrangements. Last month, another Nigerian delegation visited Britain, France, and West Germany for similar talks.

Government To Strengthen African Ties

AB211958 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, says the present administration will strengthen its relations with other African countries. Receiving a message from President Omar Bongo of Gabon at Dodan Barracks, the head of state said the Federal Military Government sent out special messages to explain the position of the country immediately after the change of government. Gen Buhari explained that the government believes that sister African countries should understand the situation before any other countries. He said the administration had received [word indistinct] from all the African countries, and reiterated the commitment of Nigeria to a vigorous African policy.

Delivering the message, the deputy prime minister of Gabon, Mr Emile Kassa-Mapsi, said Gabon was aware of the role Nigeria was playing in African affairs and considered its relationship with Nigeria in the context of African solidarity. In the message, President Bongo assured Gen Buhari of his country's support. He requested the Nigerian head of state to maintain and increase the fraternal relations between the two countries.

Buhari Speaks On Review of Revenue Allocation

AB211755 Lagos NAN in English 1330 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 20 (NAN) — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, today in Lagos urged traditional rulers to educate their people to appreciate the magnitude of the economic problems in the country. Gen Buhari told a delegation of traditional rulers from Cross River, who called on him at Dodan Barracks, that the ousted civilian regime took more than four years to destroy the economy which, he said, would take time to rebuild. On the distribution of essential commodities, Gen Buhari said that the Federal Government would by-pass middlemen until things became better.

The head of state said that the federal government would look into suggestions by the traditional rulers for a review of the existing revenue allocation formula as well as the provision of assistance to areas affected by soil erosion.

The leader of the delegation and chairman of the Cross River State Council of Chiefs, His Highness Eval Nkanu, had told Gen Buhari that the take-over by the military had brought "wonderful psychological relief to the people." Chief Nkanu, who is also the paramount ruler of Obubra, said that life had become unbearable for the common man under the politicians.

LIBERIA

Sierra Leone Refugees Flee 'Political Upheaval'

AB191215 Monrovia Radio Elwa in English 1200 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] The Immigration Commission in Monrovia says over 500 refugees from Sierra Leone have entered Liberia by way of the Freetown border. Speaking to ELWA NEWS on the weekend, Deputy Immigration Commissioner David G. Bachir said the refugees had reported that there was political upheaval between tribal groups in Sierra Leone.

The commissioner said the refugees have been held up in the border region and will not be allowed in the city. It can be recalled that last year over 6,000 refugees entered Liberia.

TOGO

Benin's Kerekou Arrives for Visit

AB211518 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpts] General Mathieu Kerekou, Beninese head of state, arrived in Kara this morning for a friendly and working visit to Togo. Our guest arrived at at approxiamtely 0930 this morning at Niamtougou Airport. President Mathieu Kerekou was met on arrival by his brother and friend, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT] and president of the Republic.

After the welcoming ceremony, the two heads of state held private talks at RPT Headquarters at Kara, which were followed by a luncheon and reception in honor of our guest by President Eyadema.

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara: Civil Service Dismissals to Continue

AB201130 Paris AFP in French 1310 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, 19 Feb (AFP) — "Corrupt, overabundant, bureaucratic" — 6 months after their accession to power, the Upper Voltan authorities want to continue without delay with the "restoration of order" in the public service to cope with the very serious economic and financial crisis facing the country and to "remove the perpetual assistance mentality."

"[Words indistinct] public service as it was left by the reactionaries (...) this is why we must fight that bourgeois, corrupt, and bureaucratic machinery. There are no other solutions to this end other than to wipe out the rotten and degenerate elements."

In receiving Ghanaian head of state Jerry Rawlings on 12 February at Bobo Dioulasso (360 kms west of Ouagadougou) on a 2-day official visit to Upper Volta, President Thomas Sankara was abundantly clear: Even though there has been an abatement in the dismissals and compulsory retirements in the public service that marked the first months of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR], one must not conclude that "the purification of the state's machinery" has ended. For him, "there is not a deadline for the dismissals," which have already eliminated at least 350 persons from the public service according to sources.

This policy, which is particularly popular among the young militants of the Revolutionary Defense Committees, who demonstrated in Ouagadougou calling for the continuation of the measure, has naturally given rise to a profound malaise among public servants, many of whom have stressed the "arbitrariness" of such dismissals.

Trade unions did not fail to express concern over the measures, and three of them — the Upper Voltan Organization of Free Trade Unions, the National Confederation of Upper Voltan Trade Unions, and the Upper Voltan Workers' Trade Union Federation — have talked to the authorities about it in a letter to the minister of public service, social laws, and labor.

"We ask that the laws regarding the labor contract between public servants and the administration be complied with and that those who have lost their jobs be reinstated," the union leaders wrote, and requested a meeting with Captain Sankara on the issue.

Two other measures taken in February have added to the already morose atmosphere: The 1984 budget provides for gradual cuts from 25 to 50 percent in the allowances of public servant magistrates, soldiers, and employees of state-owned enterprises.

"The maintenance of the normal salary payment system (...) led Upper Volta to devote 57 percent of its own resources to paying the salaries of its 26,000 civil servants," the minister of finance, Justin Barro Damo, explained in early February. He also pointed out that members of government had on their part given up their duty allowances of 75,000 CFA francs (1,500 fr) a month. The acute financial crisis currently facing Upper Volta (according to a top official, the total sum of unpaid bills that have accumulated at the Treasury falls between 9 and 10 billion CFA francs) makes these "sacrifices" mandatory for the Upper Voltan authorities.

To Capt Sankara, the "stringent measures are aimed at removing Upper Volta from its beggar-state status, because we are [words indistinct]. This is the price to pay for our freedom and dignity."

Also, on the decision of the minister of public service, couples with both members being public servants could henceforth be separated through reassignments to different towns. This measure, which the authorities justify by the need to ease staff management, and what they term "excessive" refusal of some civil servants to work in the interior, seems unpopular insofar as it affects the unity of the family [words indistinct]

The Upper Voltan authorities are aware of the stir caused by these "anti-bureaucratic" measures, and are not surprised [words indistinct] affect their immediate interests," quoting an important member of the CNR. But, to the minister of finance, they are convinced that a majority of civil servants "will understand the political significance" of the these sacrifices. However, observers wonder what the reaction of trade unions will be, which are well established in the public service and have until now remained very quiet.

Sankara Congratulates Chernenko on Election

AB162125 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
2000 GMT16 Feb 84

[Congratulatory message from President Thomas Sankara to Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee]

[Text] Comrade, on the happy occasion of your election to the post of general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, I have the honor to express to you, on behalf of the revolutionary people of Upper Volta, their National Council of the Revolution [CNR], their government, and on my own behalf, our very warm congratulations. Your election comes at a time when the exploitive forces are being opposed by the oppressed masses, and I have no doubt that with your militant commitment, the CPSU will identify itself even more with the struggling peoples in order to block the way of imperialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, and [words indistinct]. Only our solidarity and full determination will lead us to our inevitable victory.

Highest and militant regards.

[Signed] Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR, head of state of Upper Volta

ANGOLA

Interior Minister on RSA Talks, U.S. Role

MB220706 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The process which will lead to a rapid and peaceful settlement of the conflict in southern Angola and the Namibian issue is under way. This was stated in Luanda by Lieutenant Colonel Alexandre Rodrigues Kito, minister of the interior, during a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday afternoon.

The Angolan interior minister, who has been heading the Angolan delegation to the talks with South Africa, said that hostilities caused by that country in southern Angola have ceased and the disengagement of its forces from our country has already begun with the withdrawal of some of its troops. Lt Col Alexandre Rodrigues Kito expressed the opinion that current conditions are good for the establishment of an atmosphere of trust which could permit the joint military commission, which was agreed upon recently in Lusaka, to work toward creating the necessary atmosphere for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 on the process for Namibia's independence.

To achieve this, he stressed, it is absolutely necessary for South Africa to withdraw its troops from our national territory and cease giving military support to groups hostile to the Angolan people. There is, as he stressed, the need for the People's Republic of Angola to regain its sovereignty over the southern portion of the country, which has been under the occupation of the Pretoria Army for almost 3 years. Angola has in turn agreed [acedeu] to restrict the actions of SWAPO during the period of the joint military commission existence with a view toward the implementation of the next phase in the peace process — namely, the beginning of negotiations between the warring parties, South Africa and SWAPO, aimed at securing a cease-fire.

According to Lt Col Alexandre Rodrigues Kito, the United States is also taking part in the process of negotiations between Angola and South Africa, and its active participation in the proceedings of the joint military commission is in accordance with the wishes of the South African and Angolan Governments.

Regarding the issue of the presence of Cuban internationalist troops in Angola, the Angolan interior minister stressed that this question has not yet been addressed in the current process of talks, but the statement signed on 4 February 1982 by the Havana and Luanda governments continues to hold.

Military Court Sentences Defendant to Death

MB210933 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The Military Court of the Fourth Military Region yesterday sentenced defendant (Esau Jeremias Mangomo) to death by firing squad. Defendant (Esau Jeremias Mangomo), who was a technician at (ENERGEL), was tried and sentenced to death for having revealed military secrets which endangered the lives of many combatants of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola.

The Military Court of the Fourth Military Region, which tried eight defendants, also passed sentence on (Laurinda Frederico Lucili), (Angelino Iaquel), and (Maria Alino Lucas Calundulu), sentencing them to 2, 4, and 14 years imprisonment, respectively, as it was proven that they consciously participated in the same treasonous crime against the fatherland.

Defendants (Luciano Chimbi Ambulo), (Guilherme Ataide), (Elias Ossi), and (Jorge van Dunem) were acquitted as nothing was proven regarding the crime.

Armed Forces Continue Operations Against UNITA

MB181118 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Implementing orders from their superiors, the defense and security forces are continuing a relentless fight against the puppet gangs and hampering their ability to move and act, with the intention of completely eliminating them. In this context, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola annihilated another group of bandits in the region of Caimbambo, Benguel. In this action, a considerable number of counterrevolutionaries were killed while attempting to destroy a Benguela railroad bridge in the Solo area of Caimbambo. This group of UNITA bandits left behind many weapons and various military equipment, and in their desperate flight, enabled our forces to seize [words indistinct] — a fact which reveals the state of disintegration of the puppets.

Reports from our Huambo regional radio station say that despair within the enemy ranks is causing them to resort to murdering members of the peaceful and defenseless public. Thus, an armed gang which infiltrated members of the public of the Santo Antonio and Sao Bento residential areas on the outskirts of Huambo Town murdered five persons in cold blood and looted their belongings.

According to reports from residents of the Sao Bento residential area, the gangsters were surprised by defense and security forces during their hasty flight from the crime. In the encounter, the gangsters lost four of their fellow counterrevolutionaries. These acts of pure banditry, aimed at terrorizing members of the public who are firmly engaged in the process of national reconstruction, will never intimidate the people of Huambo, who have been able to respond to this year's central watchword: defense production. This was clearly demonstrated at a recent ceremony of swearing loyalty to the flag by about 1,000 working and laboring vigilantes [brigadistas operarios e trabalhadores] of the enterprises of the Huambo industrial area.

From Huambo Province we have also learned that the Military Tribunal of the 4th Military Region will try eight persons for counterrevolutionary practices in support of the UNITA puppet gang, namely, crimes of treason to the fatherland, spying, and offenses to the Angolan leaders. Some of those to be tried took advantage of their opportunity to work with sectors such as (Enatel) and the communication system of the 4th Military

Region to supply [facultar] secret military information, thereby endangering the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola.

COMOROS

Nigerian Ambassador Conveys Message to President

EA181642 Moroni Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Summary] President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane this morning received the Nigerian ambassador to Comoros, resident in Nairobi, Mr Nuhu Mohammed, who conveyed to him a message from President Muhammad Buhari. During talks with Said Madi Kafe, minister of foreign affairs, cooperation, and foreign trade, the ambassador expressed his government's willingness to consolidate relations between the two countries:

[Begin Mohammed recording] "The content of the message was to brief President Abderemane on the reasons for the change of government, and to assure him that the change is an internal Nigerian affair. It does not, therefore, at all affect the existing relations between Comoros and Nigeria. Neither have our relations or our attitude changed toward our brother countries such as Comoros. "The Nigerian position with regard to the Mayotte Island affairs has also not changed. We have always supported the Comoran Government in all international forums, and have participated in various OAU, UN, and Nonaligned countries meetings, and we have always expressed support for Mayotte Island as part of the national Comoran territory." [end recording]

MADAGASCAR

President Meets With Chernenko, Others in Moscow

MB180650 Antananrivo Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Konstantin Chernenko, the new general secretary of the CPSU, received President Didier Ratsiraka yesterday in the Kremlin. The two interlocutors briefly exchanged views on Soviet-Malagasy relations. The two sides reiterated their wish to further promote bilateral (?cooperation). The meeting also reviewed international problems, particularly the situation in the Indian Ocean region. The two heads of state reaffirmed their mutual intention to pursue efforts to transform the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. [passage indistinct]

President Didier Ratsiraka also received several foreign heads of state and heads of delegations with whom he reviewed bilateral problems and the international situation. On Wednesday morning he met with Samora Machel, the Mozambique head of state, and with Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam, who is also OAU chairman. He later received Nikolay Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR council of ministers, member of the CPSU, and chairman of the State Planning Committee. The meeting between the Soviet and Malagasy parties concluded with the decision to further promote the existing friendship and cooperation between the two countries, the Soviet press agency, NOVOSTI, reported.

On Wednesday morning the head of state also met Shaykh Hamed Ould Danini, permanent secretary of the Mauritanian Military Committee. He also met Fidel Castro, Cuban head of state.

MARITIUS

Indo-Mauritius Joint Commission Meeting Ends

BK181611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] India and Mauritius are to have a joint shipping venture. This was one of the decisions taken in Port Louis today at the end of the meeting of the Indo-Mauritius Joint Commission. India has also agreed to help Mauritius in the development of several other projects, including setting up a hospital.

Addressing a news conference in Port Louis, the [Indian] external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, said India and Mauritius have the same stand on the Diego Garcia issue and for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

MOZAMBIQUE

More Reportage on Mozambique-RSA Talks

Machel Received Botha Message

MB220942 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] President Samora Machel received a personal message from South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha on Monday in Maputo. The message was delivered to the Mozambique head of state during an audience granted to Roelof Botha, minister of external affairs; Louis le Grange, minister of law and order; and General Magnus Malan, minister of defense, who were part of the delegation to the talks between Mozambique and South Africa.

On the occasion, President Samora Machel reiterated the principles of peace, stability, progress, and good neighborliness which are at the center of the current talks between the two countries.

Further on Botha Statement

MB211823 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Talks between Mozambique and South Africa remain in the news.

[Begin Roelof Botha recording in English] His Excellency President Samora Moises Machel received me together with my colleagues, Ministers le Grange and Malan. [end recording]

That was Roelof Botha, the South African foreign minister, as he was reading the English version of the joint communique on the talks. As we stated yesterday, the South African minister and two of his colleagues were received by President Samora Machel at the conclusion of the first session of talks held yesterday.

[Begin Botha recording in English fading into Portuguese translation] During the talks, according to the final document, President Samora Machel reaffirmed to the representatives of the South African Government the principles of peace, stability, progress, and good neighborliness which are at the center of the present talks between the two countries. [end recording]

These principles were once again repeated by the South African delegation during a press conference at the airport. Questioned on when a security agreement would be signed and what its content would be, Roelof Botha said he could not right now give a definite answer and added:

[Begin Botha recording in English fading into Portuguese translation] Both governments would like to conclude the negotiations on the agreement as soon as possible. They are both aware of the urgent need to formulate this agreement. When that is completed, the agreement will be signed. [end recording]

One of the fundamental results sought by our country in the talks is the cessation on the part of South Africa of its aggression against Mozambique, and the end of its support for the armed bandits who commit crimes in our country. At the press conference, several questions were put to the South African foreign minister on that issue. He was asked, among other things, whether South Africa would now cease its support for the bandits and whether it would order the closure of radio services placed at the disposal of the hyenas in Transvaal Province. Without giving a positive or negative answer, Roelof Botha limited himself to saying that the agreement under negotiation was being formulated in a manner to satisfy both governments.

In the talks held in Maputo yesterday, the two delegations reviewed the activities of the working groups on security, ecnomic issues, Cahora Bassa, and tourism, and expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved.

OAU Secretary General Onu Arrives for Talks

Reportedly To Meet Chissano

MB200606 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] OAU Acting Secretary General Peter Onu is expected to be received today by Foreign Affairs Minister Joaquim Chissano in Maputo. Peter Onu arrived in Maputo the day before yesterday from Botswana, and its expected he will hold talks with Mozambique authorities on questions related to southern Africa, the Western Sahara, Chad, and the OAU itself.

Machel Meets OAU's Onu

MB211259 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The acting secretary general of the OAU, Peter Onu, was received in Maputo yesterday by President Samora Machel as he came to the end of a 3-day working visit to Mozambique.

Mr Onu, who is touring southern Africa, discussed the crises in Chad and the Sahara, as well as the general situation in the region. He said attempts to solve the Sahara question were being blocked by Morocco, which refused to negotiate with the Saharan delegation, and the Chad problem was also deadlocked because Hissein Habre's Ndjamena administration was also refusing to negotiate with Goukouni Queddei's government of national unity on an equal basis. Mr Onu was guest of honor at a dinner given by Mozambique Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano last night, and he left Mozambique this morning.

Algerian Delegation Arrives in Maputo

MB211919 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] A delegation of deputies from the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria arrived in Maputo yesterday for a working visit to Mozambique. The delegation held a meeting this afternoon with a delegation of the People's Assembly led by Deputy Helder Martins.

The visit by the Algerian delegation falls within the context of the traditional relations of friendship forged between the Algerian FLN and Frelimo during the armed struggle for the liberation of Mozambique and consolidated between the two states following our country's independence. During the visit, the two countries' assemblies will exchange viewpoints and prepare the holding of the seventh conference of the Union of African Parliamentarians due in the capital of Algeria in March. The conference will discuss the primary problems facing the African Continent; namely, the issue of Namibian independence, the general situation in southern Africa, the problem of Chad, and the Western Saharan issue.

French Economic Cooperation To Double in 1984

MB190846 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Christian Nucci, French ministerial delegate to the Ministry of External Relations for Cooperation, has announced his country's decision to double the amount of its aid earmarked to Mozambique this year. Christian Nucci was speaking to a Radio Mozambique journalist in Paris. Cooperation between the two countries in 1982 amounted to FR5 million. Christian Nucci also said that the French Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, which falls under his ministry, is taking part in Mozambique agricultural projects with FR141 million. According to Christian Nucci, the fund is providing FR195 million for the transport sector and training of railroad workers. During his interview with the Radio Mozambique journalist, Christian Nucci also announced that the first session of the Mozambique-France joint commission will be held in Maputo in July.

The French Ministry of External Relations for Cooperation is presently analyzing the file on Mozambique proposals to be discussed in July, which cover a number of strategic sectors for the development of our country. Christian Nucci said the proposals deal with projects related to agriculture, food self-sufficiency, transportation, energy, the textile industry, and health sectors, among others. According to Christian Nucci, France is to increase its participation in Mozambique projects with a view to improving our country's food self-sufficiency.

Lome Convention Group Arrives on Study Visit

Scores 'Bandit' Attacks

MB180612 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] The joint delegation from the European Parliament and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific [ACP] Group of countries today described attacks on Mozambique by South African-backed bandits as terrible aggression. The head of the delegation, (Giovanni Bersani), said in Maputo that they had seen evidence of a series of attacks on roads, economic centers, women and children, which he described as serious aggression.

The delegation has also visited areas affected by floods. Mr (Bersani) said the effects of the floods were very hard and it made the Group realize the need for concrete solidarity. He said this had already been discussed with the Mozambique authorities. Mr (Bersani) also revealed that while in Maputo his delegation held discussions with the Mozambique Government about the country's future relationship with the ACP Group, which is linked to the European Community through the Lome Convention. Mr (Bersani) said the delegation's work visit to Mozambique was the third phase of a study of South African aggression against the Frontline States. The first phase was when a delegation toured Angola, Zimbabwe, and Zambia, and the second was when another delegation toured Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Tanzania. The delegation left Maputo today for Congo, Brazzaville, where they are to attend an ACP and European Community joint meeting.

Departs for Brazzaville

MB180818 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] The visit of the parliamentary delegation from the European and African, Caribbean and Pacific [ACP] states to Mozambique ended this afternoon. The delegation left for Brazzaville, the Congo, where it is expected to present a report next week on its visits to Angola, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho, Tanzania, and Mozambique, where it examined acts of aggression perpetrated by South Africa. Before leaving Maputo, the delegation was received in the morning by Minister of Finance Rui Baltazar. At Maputo International Airport, the delegation was seen off by Salomao Munguambe, People's Assembly Standing Commission member and other deputies.

Machel Congratulates Chernenko on New Post

MB180942 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] President Samora Machel has sent a congratulatory message to Konstantin Chernenko on his election to the post of general secretary of the CPSU. President Samora Machel message reads: "This action confirms the great qualities of an unwavering militant that Comrade Chernenko has always shown in the fight for the prosperity of the Soviet people, as well as in the defense of the cause of socialism and communism."

Marshal Samora Machel says he's sure that the struggle for peace and prosperity will continue as a part of the policy of the CPSU, and the Soviet people and government, and that support for the just cause of the oppressed peoples will be further increased. The message also says: We are sure that the relations of friendship, cooperation, and militant solidarity between our parties and governments will continue to be consolidated on the basis of the leading principles of Marxism-Leninism and of proletarian internationalism.

ANC Official Attends Machel Relative's Funeral

MB212014 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] President Samora Machel and his wife Graca Machel this morning attended the funeral of (Mulungwanhane Malangane Machel) at (Chilumbane), Chokwe, in Gaza Province. (Mulungwanhane Malangane Machel) is the elder sister of the father of the head of the Mozambique state who died a few days ago. Present at the funeral were members of the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party, the People's Assembly Standing Commission, and the government, in addition to dozens of persons including relatives and friends of the deceased. A representative of the ANC of South Africa was also present at the funeral.

During the funeral ceremony, the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party's Central Committee, the People's Assembly Standing Commission, and the Council of Ministers presented to President Samora Machel a message of condolence underlining the vivid role played by (Mulungwanhane Malangane Machel) in the patriotic education of all who surrounded her, particularly the one who is today the father of the nation. The ANC, through its representative, also presented its condolence message to the Mozambique head of state.

RENAMO Cites Zimbabwean Military Action

MB190819 (Clandestine) Voice of Mozambique National Resistance in Portuguese 1700 GMT 17 Feb 84

[From the press review of the Portuguese newspaper, *O DIABO* — date of newspaper not given].

[Text] Members of the public are being massacred by the Zimbabwean expeditionary forces. Regarding the guerrilla war, sources close to the Mozambique National Resistance [RENAMO] briefed us on the situation and informed us about a massive offensive being carried out throughout the central region and the destruction of many enemy units operating in areas of (Mukuramadzi), (Mavunduzi), (Chitaza), and (Murumbuzi). From 9 September to 20 November of last year, 198 members of the Mozambique and Zimbawean Government forces in those areas alone were killed and 366 other were seriously injured. A total of 29 RENAMO guerrillas were killed and 35 others injured. The [word indistinct] Bridge over the Ligonha River on the Quelimane-Nampula Road has once again been sabotaged and is now completely destroyed. In southern Mozambique, the Chicualacuala railroad linking Maputo Harbor to Zimbabwe is now regarded by Zimbabwean authorities as practically closed. Trains were being attacked two or three times a week, but now the railroad from Beira to Malawi is also suffering from even more frequent attacks and interruptions. Reports circulated by RENAMO stress the behavior of Zimbabwe's 5th Brigade, which is said to have massacred scores of peasants. According to RENAMO, soldiers of this North Korean-trained brigade have massacred more than 300 people in an area near Vila Paiva de Anrade, and burned down 150 houses. The open refusal of the population to settle in communal villages or live in places controlled by Frelimo is cited as the reason the Maputo army and Mugabe's troops carried out such criminal actions. Aside from perpetrating massacres, the Zimbabwean 5th Brigade is also involved in the defensive military scheme of Frelimo soldiers in central Mozambique. Zimbabwe troops actively participate in the operations with BM-21 combat vehicles, T-54 tanks, BTR and Drdm armoured cars, B-10 and B-11 canons, and 75- and 85-mm cannons.

New Beira-Harare Communications System Planned

MB211514 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] A new communications system between Beira and the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, is expected to be operational soon, thus improving rail traffic between the two cities. The new system will particularly benefit Zimbabwe's flow of tobacco through Beira Port. The system is being built in Beira with the assistance of Danish technicians. The new system, which will function by using radio, will permit efficient control of train movement between the two cities.

Rail Officials, Zimbabwe Tobacco Exporters Meet

MB180700 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] A delegation of tobacco exporters from the Republic of Zimbabwe this morning held talks with Mozambique railroad authorities from the central region on matters related to the export of tobacco through the port of Beira. The delegation, consisting of tobacco producers, members of the Tobacco Association, and grading experts, exchanged views on the functioning of the railroad between Beira and Machipanda, the safety of the merchandise, and the equipment used in port operations.

NAMIBIA

Nujoma, Castro Reportedly Hold Talks in Moscow

AB171640 Luanda ANGOP in French 1500 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow, 17 Feb (ANGOP) — The first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and head of state, Fidel Castro, held talks in Moscow with Sam Nujoma, the president of SWAPO. Their talks centered on problems connected with the international revolutionary movement, and especially on the Namibian people's struggle for independence. It should be recalled that Fidel Castro and Sam Nujoma led the Cuban and SWAPO delegations, respectively, to the funeral of Yuriy Andropov, secretary general of the CPSU and chairman of the USSR Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, who died on 10 February this year.

SWAPO Plans First Rally in More Than 3 Years

MB251526 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1506 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Windhoek, Feb 20, SAPA — SWAPO of Namibia plans to hold its first public political rally in the territory in more than three years, SWAPO's joint secretary for foreign affairs, Mr Nico Bessinger, said in Windhoek today.

Application had been made in terms of the Notification of Meetings Act to the chief magistrate of Windhoek for the meeting to be held on March 11, a spokesman for a Windhoek firm of attorneys said.

In terms of the act, political organisations have to obtain written permission to hold meetings, and have to submit copies of their constitutions with their applications. Parties who have as their stated constitutional objectives the violent overthrow of the state are automatically barred from holding meetings, according to the act. Although SWAPO is not a proscribed movement in SWA/Namibia, its constitution has been banned. The legal spokesman told SAPA an application had been submitted on behalf of SWAPO to Windhoek chief magistrate, Mr W.H. Visser.

SWAPO sources said the meeting was planned to express the organisation's views on the present disengagement of South African forces from southern Angola and the privately-initiated multi-party conference on the future of SWA/Namibia.

SOUTH AFRICA

Deputy Foreign Minister Nel Praises Dialogue

MB212008 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, says South Africa's constructive dialogue with its neighbors has created a favorable climate for future talks on cooperation and peace. Addressing South Africa's American Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg, Mr Nel said the scene in which those who favored sanctions against South Africa or revolution in the country had to operate had been changed by events in recent weeks. He said South Africa rejected sanctions because they would not improve the economic, social, and political situation of the country's blacks.

Mr Nel said thanks to the realism of those in South and southern Africa who treasured the prosperous future for their countries: such attempts to change the stable order in South Africa, be it economic sanctions, disinvestment campaigns, or revolution, would fail dismally. The developments on the subcontinent over the past few months and days have changed the climate in which those who favored revolution in South Africa operate. Mr Nel pointed out that South Africa exported food to at least 13 African countries, provided jobs for more than 300,000 foreign black workers, and traded with at least 50 independent African states.

Cahora Bassa Talks To Continue in Cape Town

MB191240 Johannesburg SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 19 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] The tripartite talks between South Africa, Mozambique, and Portugal on the Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme will continue in Cape Town next month. The talks, which will be held on March 13, are a sequel to a similar meeting on the subject in Lisbon this week. "The discussions were conducted in a positive and very constructive spirit," Mr Louis Nel, deputy minister of foreign affairs, said yesterday shortly after his return from the Portuguese capital. Mr Nel, who remained in Lisbon for a meeting with Portuguese Prime Minister Mr Mario Soares, said there was "reason for optimism" about the RSA-Mozambique dialogue.

Johannesburg Reports ANC Lusaka Statement

MB212001 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The ANC has indirectly accused Mozambique of perpetuating instability in southern Africa by agreeing to principles of a nonagression pact with South Africa. In a statement released in Lusaka, the ANC said that it had not yet been informed by Mozambique about the proposed security pact between South Africa and Mozambique. The statement said that the ANC was involved in negotiations with the FRELIMO Party and the Mozambique Government.

Further on Statement

MB211942 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1900 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The planned security agreement between South Africa and Mozambique has drawn angry reaction from the ANC. In a statement from Lusaka, the ANC says peace and apartheid colonialism are inherently mutually exclusive. The statement goes on: Any nonagression pact between the two countries will stop the ANC and the people of South Africa from fighting for their right to self-determination and liberation. The ANC says so far it has received no word from the Maputo government about the proposed security pact.

Angolan Pact Raises Hopes for Subcontinent

MB200737 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Hopes are being expressed that the breakthrough that was achieved between South Africa and Angola in Lusaka last Thursday might lead to similar initiatives elsewhere in southern Africa. The hopes are founded in, first, the ability that has been displayed by the two most implacably opposed countries in the subcontinent to reach agreement over their most important difference, and second, the remarkable implications of that agreement. When Angola became independent 8 years ago, the MPLA seized power with the expressed intention of imposing its Marxist ideology internally, and promoting it — by force if necessary — elsewhere in southern Africa.

It became immediately an active supporter of SWAPO's terrorist campaign against South-West Africa, with the object of imposing on the territory a regime with views similar to its own. It invited into Angola some 30,000 Cuban troops, both to protect its own position of power and to assist in the advancement of the regional goals. The inevitable result — the long, drawn out border confrontation — could be resolved only through an abandonment of those original intentions. Such an abandonment is implicit in the agreement that was reached at the Lusaka meeting. At that meeting, South Africa's offer to disengage its forces was developed onto a mutual decision to observe a ceasefire, an undertaking to withdraw South African forces from southern Angola, and a simultaneous undertaking that Angola would not permit Cuban or SWAPO forces to enter the region vacated, and the appointment of a commission to monitor implementation.

South African forces had entered Angola to thwart the Cuban-supported SWAPO terrorist groups massing for another attack in South-West Africa. A necessary condition for their withdrawal was the removal of that Cuban-SWAPO threat, that is, in effect, a decision by the Angolan Government to terminate its 8-year-old commitment actively to support violence across its border. Therein lies the political significance of the undertaking not to allow Cuban or SWAPO forces into the vacated region of southern Angola, since implementation of the undertaking would automatically put a stop to the terrorist infiltration.

As long-time adversaries, both South Africa and Angola are understandably dubious about one another's willingness to carry out undertakings. Appointment of a monitoring commission comprising members from both countries was therefore a necessary part of the package. The ready agreement of both to such a commission, which has already held its first meeting, is in itself an early indicator that a substantial breakthrough was achieved in Lusaka. If the indicator proves true and the initiatives can be carried through to a successful conclusion, the effects would be felt throughout southern Africa. In particular, there would be no reason why, if negotiation and good faith were able to resolve the most militant confrontation in the subcontinent, many other and lesser obstacles to cooperation and good neighborliness should not be cleared.

Argentine General Refused Residence Permit

MB210832 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] An Argentinian national who, according to press reports, was wanted by the Argentine Government in connection with alleged human rights violations, Vice Admiral Ruben Jacinto Chamorro, has left South Africa after his application for a temporary residence permit was refused. The Argentine military command apparently wishes to question Adm Chamorro on the alleged abduction, torture, and murder of thousands of people in the antiguerrilla campaign in Argentina in the seventies. The minister of internal affairs, Mr de Klerk, said in reply to a query that Adm Chamorro had been attached to the Argentinian Embassy in South Africa, and had decided to remain in the country after his term of office had ended. In December, last year, an application for a temporary residence permit was made on his behalf by a firm of attorneys. The application was refused on 15 February, and the admiral left for Buenos Aires this week.

In the meantime, it has been reported from the Argentinian capital that Adm Chamorro was arrested upon his arrival there. He was to have been questioned by a judge yesterday.

New Colored Political Party Established

MB201355 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] A new colored political party, the Reformed Freedom Party, has been established in Johannesburg. The former leader of the Freedom Party, Mr Charles Julies, who was defeated in a vote at the party's national congress at the weekend, was elected acting leader of the party. Meanwhile, the new leader of the Freedom Party, Mr (Arthur Booysen), has denied that there is a rift in the party. He said that although many of the party's Cape supporters had walked out when Mr Julies was defeated, many others had indicated that they would remain members of the Freedom Party.

Appeals Court Turns Down Gerhardts' Application

MB201353 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] We have just learnt from Cape Town that the Gerhardts application for leave to appeal against the couple's conviction and sentence in the Supreme Court has been turned down. The application was held in camera by the judge president of the Cape, Mr Justice G.G.A. Munnik. Gerhardt and his wife were sentenced on 31 December on charges of high treason arising from espionage activities on behalf of the Soviet Union. Gerhardt was sentenced to life imprisonment, and his wife to 10 years.

Film Crews Barred From Western Cape Areas

MB181318 Umtata Captial Radio in English 1300 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] All film and television crews have been barred from entering certain areas of the Western Cape. The ban applies to both foreign and local film crews, and forbids them from entering black townships and squatter areas in the Western Cape until 26 February. Western Cape Administration Board official Gert du Preez has confirmed the ban and could furnish no reasons for the restriction. Western Cape Cooperation and Development officials have said they know nothing about it, but a spokesperson for the department in Pretoria says the ban might extend to other parts of the country as well. Minister of Cooperation and Development Piet Koornhof and the director general of the department have both been unavailable for comment.

Violence Noted at Gold Mine; Miners To Be Charged

MB211331 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Forty-two miners are to face public violence charges after unrest on an Orange Free State mine. Three miners are in hospital in critical condition after what police have described as riots at the Free State Geduld Gold Mine. Brian Eminiss reports:

[Eminiss] Police officers from the South African police in Welkom are still keeping a close watch on the Free State Geduld Gold Mine Number 5 hostel complex in fear that trouble may erupt later this evening. Workmen have already started to replace the many thousands of broken windowpanes caused during the riots. During another incident of unrest, a member of the Patrol Dog Unit from Welkom was admitted to the hospital after being struck on the head by a metal bar. Forty-two persons will appear in court shortly on charges of public violence.

Transkei Embassy Complains of Police Action

MB201611 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1448 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 20, SAPA — The Transkeian Embassy said in Pretoria today that "arrogant and abusive" black policemen from the East Rand Administration Board raided the premises of the Transkeian Consulate in Tembisa last week and made "derogatory insinuations about our state president, R K.D. Matanzima."

Mr L. Ntshongwana, minister at the embassy, said in a press statement, that on the following day, February 15, two white policemen from the West Rand Administration Board [WRAB] arrived at the Johannesburg consul-general's residence in Houghton, and demanded passes from the workers on the premises. Mr Ntshongwana said the embassy "was in the process" of bringing the matter to the attention of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs, and that the Transkeian Government had been informed.

Referring to the first incident, Mr Ntshongwana said when approached by the embassy staff, the policemen "were arrogant and abusive. They threw libelous insults at our staff, threatening violence against them. They also harassed and insulted our clients. One of the policemen threatened to kill one of our staff, and called him a monkey." Mr Ntshongwana said: "These policemen made derogatory insinuations about our state president, Dr R.K.D. Matanzima, saying they were fed up with this Matanzima office. When our Johannesburg consul-general contacted Mr Kruger, the Tembisa Township manager, Mr Kruger, confirmed the raid and displayed no remorse. When informed about the inviolability of the premises, the townships manager threatened to continue with such raids whenever he felt so."

Mr Ntshongwana said that in the second incident, the WRAB policemen were advised, after demanding passes from the workers, to first speak to the consul-general at his office, but they "persisted with their demand for reference books and passes."

Mr Ntshongwana said that last night he and a black American friend were refused service at two restaurants in Pretoria. He said they were informed by the restaurant owners that "they don't serve blacks until the law changes." Mr Ntshongwana said he and his friend were advised to go to Johannesburg if they wished to sit down and have a meal, "otherwise they were free to order take-aways."

Homeland Leader Slams 'Violent' Organizations

MB200831 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The chief minister of the self-governing South African national state of Qwa Qwa, Mr Kenneth Mopeli, has sharply criticized organizations which support violence in South Africa. Mr Mopeli was speaking at a meeting of Basotho people near Johannesburg. He said the Basotho could be proud of what they have achieved, and it should be their aim to retain their identity. A satisfactory future could be achieved only through cooperation and dialogue between the various peoples of South Africa.

Mr Mopeli said that organizations such as the Azanian People's Organization, the United Democratic Front, and students' organizations which supported violence did not have the interests of South Africa at heart. They were also not working towards progress in the country. Mr Mopeli said the government of Qwa Qwa would, as in the past, continue to have discussions and negotiations with the South African Government.

PFP Scores Ciskei Detentions on RSA Territory

MB200828 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Ciskeian security police have released two residents of a South African village. The two were among 15 residents detained last week. They are 96-year-old Herman Giji and (M. Jani). Residents of the village Mgwali have been resisting plans to remove them to Ciskei. There has been outraged reaction to the detentions from the Progressive Federal Party. The party has labelled the detentions abductions. It has called on the government to make Ciskei account for the actions of Ciskeian police on South African territory. The PFP says the Ciskei action is tantamount to anarchy.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Says RSA Commitment 'Yet To Be Seen'

MB211912 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, said today that the world is yet to see how committed South Africa is towards her current pledges to withdraw her troops from southern Angola. Speaking when he received credentials from three European ambassadors to Zambia, the president said that while South Africa has made strong indications that she will withdraw her troops from Angola in preparation for talks that will lead to Namibian independence, her commitment to her pledges has yet to be seen. Dr Kaunda said the tide of events in Namibia will very much depend on how genuine South Africa is towards her pledges of withdrawal of her troops from Angola. He told ambassadors (John Adbel Ollander) of Sweden, (Jenning Bergmann) of Denmark, and (Dimitri Storikos) of Greece that Zambia's commitment to the UN Resolution 435 aimed at the achievement of Namibian independence remains unchanged.

All three ambassadors said while presenting their credentials that the apparatus for sustaining peace and stability in southern Africa [incomplete phrase as heard] and pledged their countries' continued assistance to South African and Namibian liberation movements.

Mundia Hails Kaunda's Role in Disengagement Accord

MB171958 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia commended President Kaunda for his unequalled leadership qualities that have led to a breakthrough in the Angola, South Africa, and United States negotiations. Mr Mundia, who was briefing the House about the breakthrough and pullout of South African troops from southern Angola following the tripartite meeting held in Lusaka yesterday, said this was testimony to President Kaunda's leadership qualities that he had displayed since independence. Mr Mundia said the whole world has applauded Dr Kaunda because this latest development could usher in an atmosphere of peace and stability in the region which, he said, meant more prospects of better economic development.

He said the impact of disturbances that Zambia had lived with for several years was known to everyone, adding that if the breakthrough led to a solution, there will be no more refugees slinking into the Western Province and the Northwestern Province of the country. Mr Mundia, who was making a contribution to the debate of foreign affairs estimates of expenditure, also called on members of Parliament to look at the country's foreign policy in a wider context in order not to get lost. He said the people handling the country's foreign policy and all the problems, were able people in whom Zambians should have confidence. He said his excellency the president gave leadership in the talks for Zimbabwean independence, and in the signing of the liberation accord which gave birth to the independence of Mozambique, and had stood firm on the principles of liberation, human justice, and world peace.

Sources Say Withdrawal Not 'Dramatic Breakthrough'

MB171938 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Western diplomatic sources said in Lusaka today that the process of disengagement in southern Angola should not be regarded as a dramatic breakthrough as there are several other important steps that have to be taken to achieve an overall peace in the region. The sources, however, reacted favorably to the latest development in southern Africa, and declared that the peace train is now in rapid gear, and everyone wants to be on it. The sources were commenting on the creation of a joint commission by Angola and South Africa to monitor the disengagement process in southern Angola, and to detect, investigate, and report any violations of the commitment of the concerned parties. The sources said the peace train is moving rather rapidly now, and people want to be on the train, rather than off it. They said it is their hope that the disengagement process will lead to a cessation of hostilities in the concerned region. They pointed out that the disengagement process was aimed at building the kind of climate needed to achieve a settlement in the troubled territory of Namibia. Zambia, where the tripartite meeting took place between Angola, the United States, and South Africa yesterday, was described as the logical place for this kind of meeting, and the leadership and statesmanship of President Kaunda made it possible. The private meeting, which was opened by His Excellency the President, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, was attended by South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha, Angola's Interior Minister Alexandre Rodrigues, and American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker. The conference responded to Dr Kaunda's statement that the historic opportunity now existed to [words indistinct], and resolved in a communique that further meetings will be held in other mutually agreed locations.

The diplomatic sources said the disengagement process was a reciprocal understanding that the combatants involved [words indistinct] to abide by the accord and not take advantage of it to engage the other in combat. They ruled out any possibility of a (?combat role) for the United States in the region, saying the American Government was currently engaged only in a diplomatic effort.

Goma Says Foreign Policy To Build Bridges
MB172030 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Professor Lameck Goma today told Parliament that Zambia's foreign policy would continue to have as its best objective the building of bridges of understanding and cooperation among nations. Professor Goma said that this was in the interests of world peace and security, as well as economic and social progress of all peoples. The minister, who was winding up debate on his ministry's estimates of expenditure, said that in this respect, the country would relentlessly and persistently advocate a halt to the arms race and call for meaningful negotiations to bring about general and complete disarmament under effective international control. He said this would also advocate accelerated progress in the North-South dialogue, the consolidation of South-South cooperation, and the establishment of a new international economic order.

Party Official Comments on Zaire Border Problems
MB211027 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Member of the Central Committee for Copperbelt Province, Mr Alex Shapi, said in Ndola today that border problems between the Copperbelt and Zaire's Shaba Province are more of an economic matter than political. Mr Shapi said Shaba Province in Zaire lacks development, causing the poeple there to feel neglected by their central government, and subsequently to turn elsewhere for their survival. He was speaking when the U.S. ambassador to Zambia, Nicholas Platt, paid a courtesy call on him at the start of a visit to the Copperbelt, which will also take him to Kalulushi and other mining areas. The member of the Central Committee regretted the delay in the holding of the regional permanent commission between Shaba and the Copperbelt, which in the past had helped to reduce tension. He said Zambia was willing to undertake projects which would help Zaire establish legal trade between the two states, and indicated the delays are being caused by Zaire.

In reply, Mr Platt has paid tribute to His Excellency the President Dr Kaunda, for his role in the new dialogue effort towards a cease-fire between South Africa and Angola. Speaking when he met Mr Shapi in Ndola today, the American envoy described last week's talks in Lusaka between the two parties, as well as the United States, as very important for the region. He said the talks were regarded by the United States as a very important step, and praised Dr Kaunda who opened the meeting. The meeting created a joint commission to monitor the disengagement of South African troops from Angola and to enforce a cease-fire.

Kaunda Appoints New Bank Governor, Envoy
MB211229 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] A State House spokesman has announced that President Kaunda has, with immediate effect, appointed ambassador to Sweden, David Phiri, as governor of the Bank of Zambia. He said Mr Phiri would take over from Bitwell Kuwane, who has been assigned to the diplomatic service.

The foreign affairs spokesman said that Zambia's high commissioner to Kenya, Mr Justin Chimba, has been recalled and would be replaced by Mr Willie Mwondela, who has until now been ambassador to China. The spokesman said President Kaunda has decided to transfer Mr Mwondela to Kenya following the appointment of former Party Secretary General Mainza Chona as ambassador to China.

Minister Discusses Police Recruitment, Crime Wave
MB220926 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Home Affairs Minister Frederick Chomba told Parliament that the government no longer recruits foreigners in the Zambia police force, contrary to the contentions by some backbenchers. Winding up debate on the Zambia police headquarters, land police, and Prisons Service Commission, Mr Chomba explained that all (?nine) foreigners have been retired. He said, however, that they were recruited before independence and were performing their work satisfactorily, adding that there was no question of pushing them out. [sentence as heard] Mr Chomba also informed the House that one Egyptian at the police motor transport, and the Japanese at Lilayi Training Center had come as a result of an agreement between the three governments to assist in training programs. On the crime wave in the country, on which several members expressed concern, Mr Chomba said the burden of maintaining law and order and preserving life and property was (?enhanced) considerably.

Unions Accept Pay Increase 'With Reluctance'

MB220903 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia has congratulated the four unions which represent public service workers, for having accepted the backdating of the 10 percent increment issue to 1 November 1983. Mr Mundia said in an exclusive interview with ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY that he was happy with the action the union representatives have taken, saying it was a mature way of looking at the issues. The unions — the Civil Servants Union, the Zambia National Union of Teachers, the Zambia Local Authorities Union, and the National Union of Public Service Workers — accepted the salary increments announced by the government with reluctance. The prime minister said during the meeting they had with him yesterday, the labor leaders reflected a deep understanding of the serious economic position facing the country. Mr Mundia joined the labor leaders in appealing to workers who are on strike to go back to work, so that the country's economy can improve. He pledged that the government will work towards strengthening the labor movement so that the interests of the workers are maximized. In a joint press statement issued by the unions, salary increments and arrears owed to national public workers were accepted with conditions. It said salary increments should be paid promptly by the government next month, without any delays. It said they will also have to freely enter into fresh negotiations with the government for further salary increases immediately the International Monetary Fund program expired [as heard].

ZIMBABWE

Cultural Cooperation Agreement Signed With Cuba

MB211724 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Zimbabwe and Cuba today signed a cultural cooperation agreement in Harare. The agreement covers the exchange in [word indistinct], education, mass media, and youth programs. It was signed by the deputy minister of youth, sport, and culture, Comrade Amos Midzi, and the visiting Cuban deputy foreign minister, Comrade Oscar Oramas. Comrade Midzi said he hopes the exchanges will help Zimbabwe transform the colonial cultural attitude which has prevented the people from participating fully in the country's (?life). In reply, Comrade Oramas said the agreement will strengthen the friendship which already exists between the two countries.

Press, Aviation Agreements Signed With Zambia

MB180955 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Zimbabwe and Zambia have signed three cooperation agreements. The accords, signed in Harare yesterday, include the exchange of news between the Zimbabwean and Zambian news agencies, and cooperation on air services. The third agreement was on the second session of the joint commission of the two countries.

Tanzanians Meet Banana, Agree To Buy Steel

MB200843 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Tanzania is to buy thousands of tons of building materials from Zimbabwe for the construction of its new capital city, Dodoma. This was revealed by the visiting Tanzanian minister of state in the president's office responsible for capital development, Comrade Samuel Sitta, when he paid a courtesy call on the president, Comrade Canaan Banana, at State House yesterday. Comrade Sitta, who is leading a four-man delegation, told President Banana that his country has decided to buy much of its building materials from Zimbabwean industries, especially Zimbabwean Iron and Steel Corporation steel. The Tanzanian delegation includes officials from the Central Bank of Tanzania, the Capital Development Authority, and other government officials. During its 1-week stay, the delegation will visit a number of manufacturing companies in Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru, and Kwekwe. Comrade Sitta said they would also try to evaluate costs of building materials, (?see the success of the buildings evolved) in Zimbabwe, and also study the layout of the cities in this country. He said the first shipment of building materials destined for Tanzania will begin on the 15th of next month. The minister of labor, manpower planning, and social welfare, Comrade Frederick Shava, who accompanied Comrade Sitta to State House, said the delegation is the guest of the ZANU-PF commercial wing of the Zimbabwe Development Company.

French Parliamentary Group Discusses Angola

MB180950 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] The visiting French parliamentary delegation has reiterated its opposition to the linkage of the Namibian independence question with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. At a meeting with members of government and the speaker of the House of Assembly yesterday, the delegation expressed the determination of the French Government to assist in the search for a solution to the question of occupied Namibia.

The group has held discussions with the minister of agriculture, Senator Denis Norman, on the current drought. The 5-man delegation leaves Harare for Paris today.

Mugabe Says Party More Important Than Government

MB190753 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister has urged the country's youth to become worthy of future leaders of Zimbabwe and avoid drunkeness, laziness, and taking drugs. Comrade Mugabe was addressing a Youth League conference in the Mashonaland Central Province at Bindura this morning. He called on the youth to emulate the leadership qualities demonstrated by the youth during the liberation struggle to prepare themselves to defend the country against those bent on destroying our hard won independence.

The prime minister said during the liberation struggle the youth were given guns to fight for their country and the hoe to till the land and teach the masses to be self-reliant. Comrade Mugabesaid instead of decrying the effects of the drought, the youth should diversify their activities and seek alternative means of production, such as the breading of chickens and pigs in cooperative schemes. He reiterated the need for strengthening ZANU-PF organs and ensuring that every citizen is made aware of the importance of unity in the party.

The prime minister said the party is more important than the government, and that the Central Committee is above the Cabinet because ministers derive their powers from ZANU-PF. Comrade Mugabe said in the future there will be no separation of the party from state organs, because after the national congress in August, government programs will be based on resolutions of the ZANU-PF Central Committee. He called on the youth to prepare a resolution outlining their objectives with a [words indistinct] international conference.

New Local Government Structure Proposed

MB180946 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] The under secretary for development in charge of Matabeleland North, Comrade (Jacob Mubenda), has announced a proposed local government structure for development. The structure proposes an administration headed by a political provincial governor with the rank of a deputy minister, and having direct access to the prime minister and Cabinet. Under the governor will be a Provincial Council, a Provincial Development Advisory Committee, and below it a District Council.